

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2010 7:23 AM
To: Barnett.MLA, Donna LASS:EX
Subject: Elections Task Force sharepoint site

Donna:

As requested, here is the address for the Task Force members' sharepoint site:
<https://sharepoint.cdtca.gov.bc.ca/cd/lgd/lgetf/default.aspx>

Cheers

Nicola

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marie Crawford [mcrawford@ubcm.ca]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2010 12:44 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Cc: Gary MacIsaac
Subject: PPT ETF

Hi Nicola:

Further to our discussion here are some of my comments on the ppt.

s.13

s.13

Hope this helps, thanks
Marie

Marie Crawford
Associate Executive Director
UBCM
Suite 60 - 10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond, BC
V6X 2W9

Ph. 604.270.8226 ext 104
Fax 604.270.9116

Please note my new email address is: mcrawford@ubcm.ca

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2010 4:44 PM
To: Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX; Marson, Michael CD:EX
Cc: Black, Marc PAB:EX; Sutherland, Don CD:EX
Subject: RE: Local Campaign Finance Reform Needed Now

Grace: I spoke with the Rob Gordon from FOI (privacy side) who has been providing us with advice on this whole submissions issue. He advises that the "P.S" on the e-mail constitutes permission by the writer to use their personal information. So, I'm thinking that the most straightforward approach is to put all of these into a separate report on the "Individuals" page – i.e. named something like "Submissions to April 15 Authorizing Disclosure of Personal Information." If you need help creating that report, Catherine may have time to help in the cutting and pasting. If there is an easier way to "grab" all these submissions (i.e. in one folder), then that of course would be great – if you and Michael could discuss that, that would be great

Michael: There will need to be a couple of small wording changes to the Feedback received pages to deal with this:
s.13

Thanks!

Nicola

From: Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2010 3:37 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Black, Marc PAB:EX
Subject: RE: Local Campaign Finance Reform Needed Now

Nicola: FYI: We may see an extra 75 to 100 of these in the next short while – coming in at a good rate.

Marc: do you think this came out of a media report anywhere?

-----Original Message-----

From: Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2010 2:26 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: FW: Local Campaign Finance Reform Needed Now

Heads up - the in box has received a number (30-34 I'm guessing today) re the following - see disclaimer at the bottom - are they to be posted?

Dear Task Force Members,

It's time the provincial government brought in tougher campaign finance regulations governing local elections.

Other provinces like Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec have strict campaign finance laws on their books and British Columbia needs to follow their lead. As the father of an elected municipal official in Ontario, I appreciate what Ontario has done.

I urge you to bring in either or both campaign spending and contribution limits, as well as require candidates and civic parties file regular financial disclosures between election campaigns.

We need to remove the taint of big money from local elections to restore the integrity of our civic democracy.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Bailey
Coquitlam, BC

P.S. I would like my name to be listed the same way organizations and local governments making submissions are recognized on the task force's web site. I am proud to stand by my views on this issue.

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2010 4:10 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: LGETF Postings

Hello:

Here are some more items for posting. Any questions – or if you see a need for any revisions, I'm back in the office on Thursday morning.

Under local government submissions:

North Vancouver (City):

I:\Locgov_dept_common\LGD_Shared\LGPRB\Projects\ElectionsTaskForce\StakeholderEngagement\WebSiteDocuments\Local Government Submissions for Web Posting\North Vancouver City of.pdf

Bulkey Nechako Regional District:

I:\Locgov_dept_common\LGD_Shared\LGPRB\Projects\ElectionsTaskForce\StakeholderEngagement\WebSiteDocuments\Local Government Submissions for Web Posting\Bulkey Nechako Regional District.pdf

Kaslo:

I:\Locgov_dept_common\LGD_Shared\LGPRB\Projects\ElectionsTaskForce\StakeholderEngagement\WebSiteDocuments\Local Government Submissions for Web Posting\Kaslo Village of.pdf

Kelowna:

I:\Locgov_dept_common\LGD_Shared\LGPRB\Projects\ElectionsTaskForce\StakeholderEngagement\WebSiteDocuments\Local Government Submissions for Web Posting\Kelowna City of.pdf

Under ngo submissions in this order:

New Democrat Official Opposition

I:\Locgov_dept_common\LGD_Shared\LGPRB\Projects\ElectionsTaskForce\StakeholderEngagement\WebSiteDocuments\NGO Submissions for Web Posting\New Democrat Official Opposition.pdf

British Columbia School Trustees Association (this is the second BCSTA Item from April 01)

I:\Locgov_dept_common\LGD_Shared\LGPRB\Projects\ElectionsTaskForce\StakeholderEngagement\WebSiteDocuments\NGO Submissions for Web Posting\British Columbia School Trustees Association April 2010.pdf

Individual submissions:

I:\Locgov_dept_common\LGD_Shared\LGPRB\Projects\ElectionsTaskForce\StakeholderEngagement\WebSiteDocuments\Individual Submissions for Web Posting\Submissions February 1 - 28.2010.pdf

Grace Van den Brink
A/Assistant Director
Local Government - First Nations Relations
Ministry of Community and Rural Development

Tel: 250 356-5673
Email: Grace.VandenBrink@gov.bc.ca

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Brown, Tom G CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2010 10:03 AM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Marson, Michael CD:EX
Cc: Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX; Sutherland, Don CD:EX
Subject: RE: LGTF acknowledgement letter

Agree wholeheartedly with holding off on removing the feedback option as we were fairly open about the 15th (with the use of the word "preferably").... Just don't want to be unfairly criticized for removing the button...

Thanks, Tom

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2010 10:00 AM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Cc: Brown, Tom G CD:EX; Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX; Sutherland, Don CD:EX
Subject: RE: LGTF acknowledgement letter

Michael – further thoughts... probably need a bit more reflection not only on the text, but also on whether to remove the feedback buttons (trying to find that right balance between allowing the task force to shift its focus to formulating recommendations, while not wanting to be too hard in "cutting off" additional thoughts from individuals, local governments or organizations). Any thoughts you have (or Tom, Don and Grace) would be appreciated – I'll ponder it a bit further as well, and we'll talk again. Cheers Nicola

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2010 9:36 AM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Cc: Brown, Tom G CD:EX; Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX; Sutherland, Don CD:EX
Subject: RE: LGTF acknowledgement letter

Michael: I think that's a great idea. I think that what we could do is remove the feedback button/e-mail address (so that "automatic" feedback is stopped), but still leave the contact information on the front page for those folks have that have a desperate need to send their final thoughts (and are interested in making the effort to do so). I will take a look at the pages on the site that you have noted (as well as others) to see what other text changes might be needed if we take that approach. Cheers Nicola

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2010 8:49 AM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Sutherland, Don CD:EX
Cc: Brown, Tom G CD:EX; Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX
Subject: RE: LGTF acknowledgement letter

Hi everyone...
Happy to make the changes...

Wondering if we should remove the "feedback" buttons and e-mail address from the site on April 16th?

We will also likely need to edit the text on the following pages:

<http://www.localelectiontaskforce.gov.bc.ca/index.html>

<http://www.localelectiontaskforce.gov.bc.ca/calendar.html>

<http://www.localelectiontaskforce.gov.bc.ca/contact.html>

thanks
Michael

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2010 7:11 AM
To: Sutherland, Don CD:EX
Cc: Marson, Michael CD:EX; Brown, Tom G CD:EX; Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX
Subject: RE: LGTF acknowledgement letter

Don: Thanks very much for thinking about this and initiating it. I like the thrust of the wording that you have proposed;
s.13

Thanks again

Nicola

From: Brown, Tom G CD:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2010 2:38 PM
To: Sutherland, Don CD:EX; Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX; Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Cc: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: Re: LGTF acknowledgement letter

Great recommendations Don - we were just talking about the pending timeline this morning.

I am fine with the wording but will wait to prepare a revised draft until we have everyone's comments from this email - then on to Mike, Dale, MO, UBCM....

Thanks, Tom

From: Sutherland, Don CD:EX
To: Brown, Tom G CD:EX; Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX; Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Cc: Marson, Michael CD:EX

Sent: Thu Apr 01 13:32:06 2010
Subject: LGTF acknowledgement letter

The standard LGTF acknowledgement letter says: "The Task Force would appreciate any further comments as soon as possible, preferably by April 15, 2010, ..." The website has the same wording.

Since we are two weeks away from April 15th, we will need to change the letter and the website wording fairly soon.

Since submissions will likely be received after April 15, the acknowledgement letter could say something like the following:

s.13

Any comments?

Don Sutherland

Director

Advisory Services Branch

Ministry of Community and Rural Development

Phone: 250 387-4025 Fax: 250 387-7972

Website: <http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/>

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Russo, Stephen CD:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2010 4:39 PM
To: Neufeld, Harry R EBC:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
Subject: Meeting Agenda and Enforcement Table



Agenda_for_Meet Enforcement_Tabl
ing_With_EBC.do... e_April 07.doc...

Hello Harry,

As we discussed on Tuesday, I have attached the agenda for Monday's meeting and the table we have been working on to further our own understanding of local government election enforcement processes.

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We look forward to discussing some of the ideas it raises with you on Monday. In particular, we are hoping to focus the conversation on issues of campaign finance enforcement, so we very much look forward to your thoughts on that aspect.

Also as discussed, I will be able to meet the four of you in the lobby just before 11:30 and accompany you to room 501 (and lunch has been ordered).

Look forward to seeing you on Monday,

Stephen Russo
Research and Policy Analyst
Policy and Research Branch,
Local Government Department
(250)-387-4053

Meeting Agenda

April 12, 2010
Room 501, 800 Johnson Street
11:30-1:30

- Recap of Election BC's discussion with the Local Election Task Force
- Discussion of possible targeted roles for Elections BC
 - Investigation of complaints
 - Other?
- Tools required for possible targeted roles
- Next steps

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Neufeld, Harry R EBC:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 8, 2010 6:59 PM
To: Russo, Stephen CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
Subject: RE: Meeting Agenda and Enforcement Table

Thanks very much, Stephen.

To further assist our discussion on Monday, it would be useful for folks on your end to review the attached draft workflow for investigations, as well as the table of 'authority options' we developed following our presentation to the Task Force.



DRAFT

Authority options

Investigative Process v local govt e...

Achieving clarity on what the appropriate lines of authority and responsibility might be that would meet objectives regarding improved campaign finance administration is likely the maximum scope of what we can hope to accomplish in our two hour meeting.

Regards,

Harry Neufeld
Chief Electoral Officer
British Columbia

From: Russo, Stephen CD:EX
Sent: April-08-10 4:39 PM
To: Neufeld, Harry R EBC:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
Subject: Meeting Agenda and Enforcement Table

<< File: Agenda_for_Meeting_With_EBC.docx >> << File: Enforcement_Table_April 07.docx >>

Hello Harry,

As we discussed on Tuesday, I have attached the agenda for Monday's meeting and the table we have been working on to further our own understanding of local government election enforcement processes.

s.13

Also as discussed, I will be able to meet the four of you in the lobby just before 11:30 and accompany you to room 501 (and lunch has been ordered).

Look forward to seeing you on Monday,

Stephen Russo
Research and Policy Analyst
Policy and Research Branch,
Local Government Department
(250)-387-4053

Pages 22 through 43 redacted for the following reasons:

s.13

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 9, 2010 11:04 AM
To: Duerksen, Dave EDUC:EX; 'lcrane@rdek.bc.ca'; 'Macdonald, Tom'; Neufeld, Harry R EBC:EX; Reimer, Neil AG:EX; Stewart, Terry J EDUC:EX; 'tpugh@civicinfo.bc.ca'; XT:Clark, Judith FIN:IN
Cc: Avery, Ainslie CD:EX; 'gmacisaac@ubcm.ca'; Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; 'mcrawford@ubcm.ca'; Paget, Gary CD:EX; Sutherland, Don CD:EX; Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
Subject: FYI - next steps for Local Gov't Elections Task Force work

Hi everyone

On behalf of everyone here at the Ministry of Community and Rural Development, we would like to thank you for your comments on our discussion papers for the Local Government Elections Task Force over the past couple months. Your input was always thoughtful and constructive, even when we left you with little time to make comments due to our tight timelines.

As the May 30 deadline for completing the Task Force's final report approaches, we will be beginning to focus on possible recommendations for the Task Force to consider. As such, we'll be moving away from producing the comprehensive overviews of issues we have been creating so far, instead taking a more solution-oriented approach to materials we develop to assist in Task Force decision-making.

Input from this group of technical elections experts will still be needed, but in the interests of saving the group's time, we will follow-up bilaterally with members of the group as needed to consult on specific issues around potential recommendations for the Task Force's consideration.

Again, thank you all for your input on the papers to date and we will be in touch again.

Alayna

Alayna van Leeuwen
Senior Policy Analyst
Local Government Policy and Research Branch
Ministry of Community and Rural Development, British Columbia

Phone: (250) 356-7020
Fax: (250) 387-6212
Email: Alayna.vanLeeuwen@gov.bc.ca

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Brown, Tom G CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 9, 2010 11:13 AM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX; Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX; Glickman, Marika PAB:EX; Avery, Ainslie CD:EX
Subject: select Local Government letter
Attachments: Local Government Elections Task Force Mar 2010.pdf; 135894_MIN_CB_Scott Fraser Mayor Council Regional Directors_Draft100409.docx

Importance: High

As discussed – this is being distributed to those who received the MLA's letter (approximately 140 local government representatives).

Gary at UBCM was given the heads up yesterday by Ian.

Thanks, Tom

Scott Fraser, MLA
(Alberni - Pacific Rim)
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Phone (250) 953 - 4771
Fax (250) 387-4680



Constituency Office:
3945B Johnston Rd
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 5N4
Phone (250) 720 - 4515
Fax (250) 720 - 4511
scott.fraser.mla@leg.bc.ca

March 30, 2010

Dear Mayor and Council/Regional District Directors,

I write to you as the Official Opposition Critic for Community and Rural development.

At the 2009 Union of BC Municipalities Convention, the Premier announced the creation of a joint Provincial Government and UBCM Task Force to make recommendations for legislative changes to improve the electoral process for local government elections across British Columbia.

The six-member Task Force is co-chaired by Bill Bennett, Minister of Community and Rural Development, and Harry Nyce, president of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) and includes two other UBCM executive members and two provincial government MLAs.

The Task Force is reviewing specific issues related to local government elections. Topics under review are:

- Campaign finance, including contribution/spending disclosure and limits, and tax credits
- Enforcement processes and outcomes
- Role of the chief electoral officer (B.C.) in local government elections
- Election cycle (term of office)
- Corporate vote
- Other agreed upon matters, (e.g. matters raised in UBCM resolutions such as eligibility of local government volunteers to be candidates)

The Task Force does invite input from local governments, but the timelines are very tight. Written comments must be submitted by **April 15, 2010**. The recommendations of the task force are to be presented to the Province no later than May 30, 2010 in time for approved legislative changes to be implemented for the 2011 local government elections.

Submissions can be sent via:

Email: localelectiontaskforce@gov.bc.ca

Mail:
Local Government Elections Task Force
c/o Ministry of Community and Rural Development
PO Box 9839 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9T1

Fax: 250-387-7972

Page 2

As a former Mayor I know what a busy time of the year it is for you. However, I also know how important these issues are to the future of local government in British Columbia. This is an important opportunity to voice your views on what constitutes a fair, accountable and transparent electoral process. I ask that you consider making a submission.

Unfortunately, the task force is not making public any of the stakeholder input it is receiving. And unless local governments, community groups and other stakeholders make an effort to share their views publically, British Columbians will never know where the common ground exists for moving forward on local government electoral reform. Please consider posting your submission to your website and copying your local MLA and myself so that we can be informed of your views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Scott Fraser', with a stylized, flowing script.

Scott Fraser, MLA, Alberni Pacific Rim
Opposition Critic, Community and Rural Development

cc: Tim Renneberg
Raj Sihota
James Bagan
Brenda McLean

Pages 48 through 50 redacted for the following reasons:

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Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 9, 2010 12:34 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX; Glickman, Marika PAB:EX; Brown, Tom G CD:EX; Sutherland, Don CD:EX
Subject: Elections Task Force -- change to text April 16

I've gone through the web site with the strategy that I think we've agreed on in mind (i.e. not cutting off feedback, but rather not actively encouraging it and letting the stated time (April 15) speak for itself). Based on that, I think that the only page that needs changing is the "Home" page. I have "track[ed] changes" my suggested changes to that page. You'll see there is one question, where your input would help.

I:\Loggov_dept_common\LGD_Shared\LGPRB\Projects\ElectionsTaskForce\StakeholderEngagement\Changes for Web Site Text_April.docx

Let me know what you think.

s.13

Thanks!

Nicola

Page 52 redacted for the following reason:

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Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 9, 2010 12:38 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: Elections Task Force site -- one additional change

Michael: When you are in there next to make other changes, could you please add **May 20** on the "calendar page" as another Task Force meeting date. Thanks Nicola

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Iris Hesketh-Boles [iheskethboles@ubcm.ca]
Sent: Friday, April 9, 2010 2:23 PM
To: Elections TF
Cc: Elections TF CC
Subject: Elections Task Force Meeting Reminder

Dear Elections TF members:

Just a reminder that the next meeting is scheduled for:
Monday April 19 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm and
Tuesday April 20 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Please note the late start time for Monday. This 2-day meeting will be held in Victoria at the Legislative Buildings

The agenda and materials for this meeting will be sent out on Thursday April 15th.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Liz Andersen
On behalf of

--
Iris Hesketh-Boles
Executive Coordinator/Office Manager
Local Government House
525 Government Street, Victoria BC V8V 0A8
EM: iheskethboles@ubcm.ca
Tel: 250-356-5122 Fax: 250-356-5119

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

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f 12 with
Michael on
Monday

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 9, 2010 12:34 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX; Glickman, Marika PAB:EX; Brown, Tom G CD:EX; Sutherland, Don CD:EX
Subject: Elections Task Force -- change to text April 16

I've gone through the web site with the strategy that I think we've agreed on in mind (i.e. not cutting off feedback, but rather not actively encouraging it and letting the stated time (April 15) speak for itself). Based on that, I think that the only page that needs changing is the "Home" page. I have "track[ed] changes" my suggested changes to that page. You'll see there is one question, where your input would help.

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Let me know what you think.

s.13

Thanks!

Nicola

Page 56 redacted for the following reason:

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Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 9, 2010 4:42 PM
To: 'gmacisaac@ubcm.ca'; 'mcrawford@ubcm.ca'
Cc: Wall, Dale CD:EX; Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
Subject: For review/discussion - LGETF draft documents

Hi Gary and Marie

As discussed on Thursday, attached are some documents for your review in advance of our discussion next Tuesday.

Short paper on changing general voting day:



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Draft outline for final report



Outline.docx

Possible recommendations brainstorming list



Recommendation
s Brainstorming2...

Sample – format for presenting possible recommendations, with some possible examples taken from the “brainstorming list”



PossibleRecsForm
at_DRAFT_Apr7....

Alayna van Leeuwen
Senior Policy Analyst
Local Government Policy and Research Branch
Ministry of Community and Rural Development, British Columbia

Phone: (250) 356-7020

Fax: (250) 387-6212
Email: Alayna.vanLeeuwen@gov.bc.ca

Pages 59 through 77 redacted for the following reasons:

s.13

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 2:27 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Marson, Michael CD:EX; Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your website
Attachments: Submissions Prior to February 1_Revised.pdf; image001.gif

Our emails crossed in the ether – here's the PDF with the entire submission removed:

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 2:25 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX; Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your website

Let's take off the whole excerpt – we don't want to get into picking and choosing therefore let's remove the whole thing. Yes, Grace, please advise them that it has been removed.

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 1:53 PM
To: Local Elections Task Force CD:EX; Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your website

Hi....

Just wondering a couple of things...do we set a precedent for removing certain things but not others? Rarely do we know who is actually "right" in any given circumstance – is this the case in this situation?

Michael

From: Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 1:29 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: FW: Please remove an offensive statement from your website
Importance: High

Hello:

I've taken out the paragraphs – see page 3 and re-PDF-ed – see attached.

Shall someone contact them saying it's been done if it is done?

Local Government Elections Task Force – Excerpts from Individuals' Submissions
To January 31, 2010

We are so disappointed, disenchanted and frustrated with Municipal elections. Election after election, for more than twenty years for us, with the same old predictable undemocratic election outcomes each time. Business/developers, Special interest groups, Unions etc. select, support, and elect their candidates election after election. The quiet majority has given up-- with voter turnout of barely twenty percent--and just don't participate and vote anymore.

The solution, we believe, for real true Municipal democracy is obvious (does not require more studies, more reviews, more committees, more consultants etc.):

- only qualified voters can select, support, and elect Municipal candidates (not Business/developers, not Special interest groups, not Unions etc.)

- qualified voters can contribute up to \$100 in total to candidates of their choice per election.

- candidates can spend up to \$0.25 per eligible voter per election (costs would be a tax deduction).

- voters would receive a \$5 income tax credit certificate, issued after they vote, at the polling station.

There would be no penalty or fine for not voting.

If Business/developers, Special interest groups, Unions etc. want to contribute they can contribute to an all Candidate fund which would be distributed after the Municipal election on the basis of the proportion of votes received by each candidate.

We believe the above changes not only would be much more democratic for Municipal elections but would greatly increase the voter participation and turnout, not only for Municipal elections, but would have a favorable impact on Provincial elections turnout as well.

We want real true democracy for Municipal elections.

All were much

more democratic with a higher turnout for Municipal elections than New Westminster and most surrounding municipalities too.

We believe that most MLAs will now vote in favor of a more democratic election process for municipalities. We believe most electors are also in favor of a more democratic election process.

The Premier who achieves real true democracy for municipalities, we believe, will be remembered in high regard for an outstanding lasting accomplishment--it could be you--now. It could be the most important accomplishment in a long successful political career---we think so. Peace, Order, Good Government surely requires **real true Democracy**.

BC is supposed to be the best province, in the best country, to live in---surely it is time it was the most democratic too. We believe most current and future voters would agree. Real true democracy is essential. Our vote is the most precious action we have in a democracy.

New Westminster

The problems with election financing at the local level are much larger than the Sun column suggests. Municipal governance will always be questionable until new legislation requires public reporting, limits and transparency. Please act.

Burnaby

Please accept the following as suggestions to address the growing problems of apathy and accountability in local government:

(1) Limit the number of consecutive terms of office which may be held by Municipal Councillors to two (2) terms, which would mean six (6) years by current measurements; a maximum of six years, no matter what (by-elections, etc.). That means a Councillor can hold office indefinitely, but not for more than six consecutive years without taking a 3-year (one-term) hiatus, to enable other citizens to participate in the democratic process and not have to face the "name recognition" barrier enjoyed by incumbents.

This individual said he would, despite a lifetime of preparation for his country, never be able to compete again as the clock had run out for him. So, too, is it with many people who would make their valuable contribution to their communities. They get married, their families grow, they take on added financial and/or work responsibilities, and cannot make the contribution they once planned to. Career Councillors (one in Victoria is I think on a sixth term) are not needed. Participation from all the community is.

I leave out the position of Mayor as I think there is enough provision for competition for that office to replace an incumbent, if the public feel the need should arise.

(2) Limit political signs to not more than 8 sq. ft. That means cutting a sheet of common 4'x8' plywood, or chloroplast, etc., can generate four large signs not requiring sophisticated erection. Also, it allows for an economical use of the material. It also means the traditional lawn signs involving a wire frame and upside down plastic bag will continue to be used. The latter are far more democratic than the wood-constructed signs that, ultimately, are either erected by Contractors (for the political "right") or Tradesmen (for the political "left"), if I may generalize. Eliminating these "constructed" signs makes the process more democratic and frees everyone (especially mayoralty candidates) from "buying" elections with favours owed to those who erect these large, constructed signs (being indebted either to Contractor groups, or Tradesmen groups). I think this will not favour either the political right, or the left, and will increase participation in the political process—make it more democratic, as it were.

(3) Limit personal campaign contributions to \$100, and corporate or institutional contributions to \$200. One or two unions paid almost 80% of the \$50,000 raised by Victoria's mayor. His opponent, more to the political right, relied equally heavily on corporate donations of substantial size (not the size of the union contributions, but in the thousands of dollars each, which must—being realistic—oblige a candidate in a way no one wants, no matter what their political persuasion). If the current President of the United States could raise all of his contributions from ordinary folks, primarily, anyone can. Let us make the playing field level for all. Door knocking is available

(4) Require that all municipal positions (Victoria, for example, has about 800, though not all of those are different from each other) have their Job Descriptions for positions currently filled or open available for review at the local library, as well as City Hall. People should be able to know who is responsible for doing what, exactly, without the Municipal Inquisitor asking "Why do you want a copy of that?" (The library doesn't ask why you want to read a particular book Yes, a municipality is not a library, but this is Canada, not Russia).

(5) Require that all municipal employees make the CV, resume or job application they present when applying for work available for review by the public, along with the related salary. There is no need for the FOI-POP people to handle all this every time a citizen wants to know what they are entitled to know. This is a reasonable request—the taxpayer or citizen is the consumer of the individual's work, and is entitled to know that the person doing it is suited to the position, or that their tenure can be defended. Personal data such as a person's street address, telephone number and email address can be deleted.

To paraphrase Henry Ford, it is not the municipality that pays wages, it is the taxpayer that pays wages; the municipality only handles the money. And to paraphrase Thomas Jefferson, "A person who assumes a public trust should consider himself as public property."

(6) Make initiating a referendum, or recall, at the municipal level contingent upon a person or persons obtaining a petition with a number of signatures equal to or greater than ten percent (10%) of the number of total valid votes cast in the most recent election. It is interesting that in Switzerland, they have (or used to; the need may have changed) held referendums once a month.

Finally, thank you for considering these suggestions. I believe you and your political assistants (MA, EA, etc.) have enough understanding of what is involved to see the ramifications and benefits to society of the above suggestions.

Victoria

Gordon Campbell,

I am outraged that you would dare to even suggest municipal voting rights for business and industrial property owners. It is an insult to the citizens of this province I demand that you resign your position as premier.

It is completely unacceptable to contemplate disenfranchising the citizen. This right has been bought and paid for with the blood of the citizen and we will not surrender it.

I call again for you to resign your position immediately as you are clearly unfit for office.

Vancouver

A few things for the electoral review group to consider:

- As an independent candidate, I must turn money remaining from my campaign over to the city following the election to be held until the next election period, when it is returned with interest if I run again. So if I have election expenses shortly into my new term, I must pay them from my own pocket until I do some quick fundraising. Conversely, if I am part of a registered slate, I keep the money following the campaign and do not turn it in to the city. This difference seems unfair - it should be the same rule for all whether I am an independent candidate or part of a slate.

- The rule for declaring campaign expenses says that we must declare only for expenses incurred in the year prior to an election. For revenue, it does not have a time restriction. In fact, I declare revenue and expenses for all 3 years between elections but some other candidates just declare for the election year. This discrepancy needs to be addressed - what is the election period for which a candidate declares revenue and expenses?

Under current rules, I must declare the gross revenue and show the fundraising expenses as all being related to the campaign. As the result, the cost of the fundraiser (basically half of the revenue) is shown as an election expense. I think this to be misleading. Surely when there is a fundraising event, the net revenue raised should be shown as the revenue figure. Then any campaign expenses would be declared as usual. For example, if I bring in \$50,000 for a dinner which costs \$25,000, I should show net revenue of \$25,000 - as it is now, I declare revenues of \$50,000 and election expenses of \$25,000 which is an inaccurate inflation of both my campaign revenue as well as my campaign expenses.

The media takes the raw information and publishes it - but it is inaccurate in the full context. I think that public should know - how much did he raise? how much did he spend for election purposes? The way it is reported does not answer these questions though that is how it is presented.

Lower Mainland

I have just read with interest Daphne Bramham's article in the Vancouver Sun on the 27th of November. She references the decision by the Liberal government to set up a task force to review legislation governing municipal government and notes little action has been taken. I would strongly urge the provincial government to proceed with their review.

The matter of making municipal governments accountable is urgent. The democratic processes that we take for granted with more senior levels of government seem to be absent at the local level. Accountability and transparency of government are impacted. Situations that might lead to conflict of interest or the perception of conflict of interest are considered of little consequence. The perception of corruption in government grows. As municipal government has a direct and frequent impacts on people living in communities, the perception of municipal governments will influence how citizens think other levels of government operate.

The situation in West Vancouver and Summerland is particularly grave and the failure to prosecute individuals who are in violation of legislation fundamentally undermines the credibility of municipal councils and their decisions and weakens local institutions.

What seems clear, is that some of the principal functions of local government should be re-examined with particular attention to accountability and transparency, conflict of interest and functional redress mechanisms. Perhaps zoning responsibilities of municipal governments should also be examined and reassigned to regional governments given the sensitivities of these decisions.

Lower Mainland

I understand from a news release that the above noted task force, with you as co-chair, held its first meeting December 4, 2009. The news release indicated feedback would be invited from various groups as well as the public. As a member of the public I would like to put forth the following comments.

1. Change the rules to allow all individuals whose names appear on property title the right to vote in municipal elections.
_____, those who jointly own property must choose one person to vote.
2. Owners of businesses located within the municipality should have the right to one vote, unless it is a home based business in which case the home owner would be voting anyway. At the present time business owners do not necessarily own residential property within the boundaries of the municipality, nor are owners of businesses currently allowed to vote. As businesses contribute considerably to the local tax base, they should have the right to one vote during municipal elections.
3. Shorten the term in office from 3 years down to 2 years. Should a municipality make a mistake and elect Councillors or a Mayor with a secret agenda they insist on imposing on the community, it is an awful long time to endure their antics before replacing them.
4. Please publish the process to be implemented to get rid of a Councillor or Mayor who refuses to hear the people or comply with the people's wishes.
_____ the majority of Council and the Mayor are refusing to hear the public on a controversial topic, have thrown out the people's petition to stop what Council is doing, refuse to hold a public meeting, have told voters to shut up and go away, no longer record in Council minutes any comments made by the public, and now restrict what the public is allowed to say at Council meetings. What is the process to get rid of out-of-control Councillors and Mayor before the next municipal election?
5. Change the rules to restrict individuals running for office to the municipality in which they reside. _____ we repeatedly elect individuals as either Councillor or Mayor even though those individuals reside in _____. Those individuals do not have to pay any taxes imposed by Council, quite often have their own agenda that may not necessarily be in the best interests of _____ and, when it suits their purpose, deny their neighbours in _____ the same privilege of interfering in _____ politics on controversial topics.

I hope the task force gives these comments serious consideration.

Kootenays

For what it is worth, here are my own observations on weaknesses and cures in the current municipal election law and regulation:

1. There should be election spending limits. Right now, there is nothing to impede special interest groups to flood any municipal campaign with money and advertising aimed at electing friendly mayors and councillors. This is not right. If they are appropriate provincially – and they are – they should also be appropriate municipally.
2. There should be a limit on the size of individual contributions. Much as we see federally.
3. The prompt disclosure and filing on the internet of the names of donors – in cash and in kind – should be emphasized. I am not sure how carefully the present rules are followed.
4. Each candidate should be required to have a financial agent with certain defined responsibilities. That agent could be the candidate him or herself.
5. For a period of 90 days prior to a civic election, an additional rule. Groups or individuals or organizations favouring any particular political posture must be identified by a responsible named person and address – on any sign, brochure, ad or handbill or radio commercial or TV ad or whatever. This would include committees of so-called "citizens for good government" who offer their preferred choices to the voters.
6. Administration and enforcement of breaches of the law and regulations should be in the hands of a specified municipal election officer, appointed by the Province. This officer should be required to submit a report following each election. Office to be funded from nomination fees.
7. Penalties for breaching the law or regulations should be serious. Say, a fine ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000 for each offense.

Good luck with your important election reform assignment.

West Vancouver

You are undertaking a review of the Local Elections Act and I truly believe you should examine the aforementioned section of the Land Use Act and Public Hearing rules.

I refer only to this section in that it is this section that seems to affect the majority of taxpayers who live in developing areas. I believe there is too much leeway in the Act and its regulations which give legal relief from incompetence, honest error, and intentional deceit. This is particularly true in regards to the sections dealing with informing people who will be affected by a zoning change. Surely a charge can be affixed to a zoning change application that would cover any cost of assuring people affected would be notified of the proposals in a proper and timely fashion. A verbal assurance that all efforts were made by a municipal, district or regional government to contact affected property owners seems woefully inadequate. It leaves open the opportunity for negligence, whether intentional or unintentional.

The Act also refuses taxpayers or the applicant the right to question, legally, the content of information presented at a Public Hearing. The applicant and those affected by the application should have access to any and all documentation relevant to the proposed change, including conceptual plot plans, parking assignments, road expansion, sewer and storm drain requirements, traffic flow projections and any and all petitions for and against the proposal. Only by allowing this information into the hands of the participants can data be examined and compiled and intelligent presentations made at the public hearings. If the data is proven to be incorrect there must be a legal avenue available for all those affected. This legal avenue must extend beyond the adjournment of the public hearing.

When these types of roadblocks and misdirection techniques can be permitted under an act which is supposed to permit full public participation and transparency, the act needs drastic change. Municipal officials, elected and appointed, must take study courses on the rights of the public in these situations. I realize we can rectify all Council matters at election time, however in a developing province we must make the rules and regulations more user friendly, and no disrespect intended, but get a whole bunch of this legal mumble-jumble out of our system.

Okanagan

I strongly support changing the term of local elected officials to a 4 year term.

Unknown

To: Minister of Community and Local Development Bill Bennet.

I would like very much to give my views but am disenfranchised from the system. I live on lease land that has a 95 year lease. I believe this is a long enough term to make me eligible to vote in municipal elections.

I pay full taxes as anyone in another municipality and I should be able to vote during the election in the Municipality where I live as other people in the province do. On December Jon Kesselman had a column published in the Vancouver Sun and he agrees with me on this matter. What are you politicians doing to us? You have given the Indian people the right to vote in Provincial and Federal elections even though they do not pay taxes to support them, but you will not allow me to vote, even though I pay full taxes. Some day this will come back to haunt you in the same way as the poor treatment of the Indians has.

Sunshine Coast

I am in favour of a 4 year term with maximum 3 consecutive term limit

I am not in favour of a corporate vote. It would invite too much pandering to industry and business related to tax rate decisions. More corporate votes would likely ensue than residential. We had a 16% voter turnout in our last election.

The campaign finances need limits imposed. I would suggest no more than 33 1/3% of annual compensation as the limit.

North Vancouver

Thank you for this information. While I have no particular interest one way or the other, as I'm happy to send along a written submission, I believe the task force is making a big mistake by not holding at least two or three public hearings. The optics are all wrong.

Democracy is not about efficiency. In this instance, the topic is election law. It is especially important that task force recommendations not be perceived to have been generated solely by interested parties, operating from some remote backroom.

The task force was created in response to controversy surrounding complaints concerning the November, 2008 local elections in three municipalities: Central Saanich, Langley and West Vancouver.

Although the police recommended charges in some instances, Crown Counsel chose not to prosecute. The Vancouver Sun has published five or six excellent columns by Daphne Bramham concerning this matter, four of which appeared on the front page. I suspect there is a great deal of interest in the work of the task force, especially in media and local government circles.

In announcing the task force last autumn, Premier Campbell stated it was the province's intention to have in place a new election law in time for the November, 2011 local elections. Presumably, such a tight timeline will require Opposition support and a minimum of controversy. One way to encourage such a cooperative approach would be for the task force to convene a few public hearings.

Please share my views on this matter with the Minister. Thank you.

Unknown

Campaign Finance.

The real problem is that it is impossible at present for voters to know what campaign donations have been made BEFORE THEY VOTE.

This could be corrected quite easily. A cutoff date prior to an election could be established to set a deadline for contributions. Publication (electronically) of the list of donations/donors would inform electors, and provide much better transparency. At this time it is of little use when a list of donors is available AFTER an election. The damage has already occurred.

ANY donations to candidates should be recorded as is done now, and kept permanently available for the public to access. Donations should be limited to a maximum of \$250 from any source. This will avoid the way large vested interests can warp the electoral process.

Enforcement.

The sanctions for any person or corporation breaking the legislation should be large enough to act as a proper deterrent, and offences pursued without interference by other government agencies. This should not be subject to judgment or filtering by crown prosecutors. ALL levels of elected provincial and local government agencies should be covered by the rules/legislation.

The municipal election cycle should return to two years, as there is evidence that 3 years allows corruption, and non-representative actions to grow. Despite the expense it is essential that specifically in municipalities there is opportunity for the electorate to retain power and the ability to ensure local governments represent them correctly.

The provincial government cycle should be fixed, and not variable at the whim of government.

A corporate vote should NOT exist, as the decision to allocate voting power would provide openings for warping the democratic purpose. The existing ban should continue, and for many good reasons.

This should apply to all collective organizations as well, such as unions, political associations, and other cooperative bodies. Voting should be confined to individually qualified residents of an electoral area.

There should be a single method of eligibility to be able to stand as a candidate. Residency and citizenship should be the qualifications. No special exception to this would be acceptable. Minimum obstacles should exist for a person to choose to stand, but perhaps some system of refundable deposit could exist to deter nuisance candidates who might garner a very low voter support.

The main problem with local government elections is that the electorate never knows who is paying the media. This information should be available before an election, and there should be a cutoff date for such campaign expenses, maybe four weeks before an election, followed by publication of the list of contributors.

Unknown

Election cycle - an election once every three years is too often. The term of office should be four years. As well elections should not be held in November for a couple of reasons - a large number of snowbirds have already gone south and the weather impacts the voter turn out. It would be more appropriate to hold the election in October.

Sunshine Coast

Elections should be administered by Elections BC. EBC staff are dedicated professionals, with the opportunity to specialize in running elections and time to research and develop best practices. Since they're outside governments, it's easy to instill and maintain non-partisan values. Having a single organization run all the elections leads to economies of scale and standardization.

Campaigns should be publically financed. My impression is that local government politicians are (relatively) the most corrupt in Canada. And yet local government campaigns don't have the big organization backers that resist public financing at other levels of government. I think there's a general trend toward public campaign financing in Canada, so BC might as well be ahead of the curve where it's easy.

I don't think absent landowners or corporations should be given a vote in local government elections - why should local government follow such fundamentally different principles than other levels of government?

Unknown

I note that you have only one workshop scheduled (March 12), presumably in the lower mainland. Since there is really no need to rush this process, I would suggest that a workshop be incorporated into each of the regional association meetings, culminating in a final input session at UBCM.

Unknown

I cannot understand why there exist requirements and restrictions for election spending at the Provincial and Federal levels yet there are none at the municipal level. I further cannot understand why if an individual wishes to contest problems within their community it must be done at their expense. The democratic process is supposed to be inclusive of all and not favouring only the select few. Of course if my beliefs are idealistic and not real I would appreciate being shown how and why.

Legislative change which will close such loopholes and ensure enforcement is viable has my full support. Will this be the result of the current task force? We will see.

Unknown

I would like to see rules whereby an elected Municipal politician must wait a reasonable amount of time before they can work or consult for a Developer after leaving office. There are too many instances of politicians being employed immediately after leaving office for a Developer whose projects they ruled on while in office. This has the appearances as a payoff by the Developer for favourable treatment.

Unknown

Over the years I have worked elections, the one consistent concern that always arises is that the candidate does not have to live in the jurisdiction in which they are running for office.

Vancouver Island

Please ban all corporate donations, and limit the size of individual donations. Also please allow wards as an option so municipalities can choose to stop at large elections.

Unknown

I believe we need recall legislation for local government. Legislation that sets reasonable thresholds for recall. The recent Blue Bridge campaign in Victoria garnered more signatures than needed. Requiring a threshold of 40%, for example, would be ridiculous given that most municipal office holders are elected with less than 10% of eligible voters. Recall is needed to bring more democracy to local government.

Victoria

I am a senior ... in the last BC election, our polling station was moved from the ... Community Centre to some street to the East of it, of which I had never heard, and impossible for us to walk to (when I checked on the map) and no public transit to get there, either. I contacted the local Elections Office and they advised if I took two pieces of ID I will be able to vote there. When I got there, the polling officer refused my ID saying I needed an addressed envelope to prove who I said I was. There were two of us with the same problem there. Fortunately, one other polling officer noted what was happening and confirmed that we could vote. I am sure other seniors are not as forceful and I and were deprived of their votes. I adamantly request that our polling station be returned to ... Community Centre. Thank you.

Unknown

I'm wondering if the task force will be looking at the possibility of allowing voters to vote electronically through a website rather than having to physically cast their vote at a polling station.

Fort St. John

1. Campaign Finance - All candidates who qualify to stand for election should be allocated equal funding. Donations should not be permitted to a specific candidate.
2. Enforcement - Enforcement of what? I have no idea what this category is that is being reviewed. Perhaps the website could be updated to provide clearer indication of the "valuable information on the issues under review" as indicated in the January 28, 2010 News Release.

3. Role of CEO - I don't see this as having significant importance. It is best if each municipality is given full authority to proceed with their elections in a fair manner of their choosing. The part that the provincial CEO plays in these elections should generally be an advisory role however the position should be allowed to intervene in the event that a municipality were to act in a manner that is not consistent with running a fair election. Of course this should only apply after the provincial elections are reformed so as to be conducted in a just manner. Until that time there should be no involvement at all. This task force should not be used to lend credence to the provincial government's dictatorial control over municipal elections.

4. Election Cycle - Again, this goes to the individual municipality having the freedom to choose how they will govern themselves. 3 years is a fine standard but there is nothing wrong with 4 or even 5 years but that should probably be an upper limit unless a temporary exception were made by referendum. As to the specifics of various deadlines for each election, I have no opinion but whatever standard is accepted should be flexible to allow individual municipalities to tailor to their needs or wishes providing these changes are fair to all candidates.

5. Corporate Vote - Absolutely not! If this doesn't cover non-resident property owners as well then let's send out another Absolutely NOT!! The concept of money being able to be used to have more voting power is antiquated and must not be considered, should not even be under review. I consider it morally reprehensible.

6. Eligibility of . . . volunteers to be candidates - I confess, I don't know what the issue is here. Unless someone is acting in a criminal capacity, why would they be disallowed to run for office?

This form indicates that you welcome my feedback on the above topics and I thank you for that opportunity.

Now for some unwelcome feedback.

Although I made some reference to this in item #3, I hope you will allow me to be more specific. All elections in Canada (and elsewhere) need to be run in a fair manner and allow a fair result to be obtained.

Currently these elections are fair in the sense that everyone is given the same rules prior to the election. However, fair results are virtually non-existent.

The Backgrounder on Local Government Elections references a paper by Julian West and Paul Tennant from 1998. This an excellent piece on the merits of independent electoral methods to best suit the circumstances surrounding different municipalities.

You will notice that the current systems in use locally, provincially and nationally are all held in disregard and that proportional or semi-proportional representation should be implemented.

The provincial government has no say in the form of electoral process at the national level. They have the authority to do so at the provincial level but prefer to wield their power so as to maintain their perception of superiority rather than do what is obviously correct, allow a truly representative government to be possible.

In the case of the local governments in BC, it is a mixture. They have no (legitimate) say in another level of government, yet somehow they are permitted to have enough control to force an unwanted electoral system down the throats of voters at the local level with the intention of bastardizing the results to produce more potential successors to their empire at the expense of those who seek justice.

Please send a message to the provincial government.

Get out of municipal government.

It would be nice if they got out of provincial government too unless they are willing to mend their ways but that's another task force.

I look forward to that one as well.

Thank you for indulging me.

Unknown

Please find my feedback, in green, on the issues the task force has identified for review and those it has not:

The Task Force is reviewing specific issues related to local government elections. Topics under review are:

•Campaign finance, including contribution/spending disclosure and limits, and tax credits. I think we desperately need all of these at the municipal level, and believe the federal system is fairly good, although a more candidate-oriented system might suite municipalities better.

•Enforcement processes and outcomes I'm not clear what this means.

•Role of the chief electoral officer (B.C.) in local government elections I'm not clear what this means.

•Election cycle (term of office) No opinion yet.

•Corporate vote I think it's ludicrous to even consider giving corporations a vote (which is what I understand this is about)!

•Other agreed upon matters, (e.g. matters raised in UBCM resolutions such as eligibility of local government volunteers to be candidates) No opinion yet.

•Recommended additional issue to consider: Allowing local governments to change their voting systems and to implement direct democracy systems, within the bounds of what would be constitutional provincially and federally.

I would be happy to contribute to the discussion in a more ongoing manner if there is an opportunity.

Unknown

Eliminate bylaw exceptions that allow election propaganda signs all over cities. They attract the wrong kind of voter (assuming they work; they attract the kind of voter that is persuaded by a "Vote for (name of candidate here)" sign, which is not how we want our leaders to be elected). The signs make cities less attractive in the eyes of residents and visitors, waste money and distract drivers. Also, educate school children on how to choose who to vote for (eg, reading candidates' platforms, etc, rather than advertisements).

Unknown

1. There should be campaign contribution limits. I suggest they follow Federal Election Act Rules. There should be full disclosure of finances as with Federal Elections.
2. Enforcement processes should be the Role of Chief Electoral Officer.
3. The Electoral Term should be every 4 years with half the councilors elected every 2 years. There should be a two term limit for any elected position. Mayor, Councilor, School Board, etc..
3. Corporate Vote should be the vote of the business owner or partners if they are non residents. If residents, they should have one vote only. This would not include share- owners.
4. Other Matters. The voter turnout is low because there is no information regarding candidates in the public view. Local News Papers only very briefly provide candidate information. There should be Personal Disclosure required in the Elections Act that requires each candidate to describe their qualifications and Political views. This should be in a paid section of the local news papers similar to, for example, the obituary column. Candidates for election should be required to disclose Business associations and Union and Political Party affiliations.

Thank you for your indulgence.

Unknown

i do not approve of developers contributing to campaign funds of candidates standing for election to city vancouver council. i have attended public hearings and have heard these developers stand before councillors whom they have given money to their election campaigns. therefore i do not believe these councillors can give an unbiased vote on the matter before them. thank you

Unknown

I think there needs to be a 'sunset' clause' for all elected officials. Unfortunately, if someone is in office too long, it is not healthy for the community. New blood is needed to bring new ideas and momentum to residents and business environments. If someone is in office too long, it can

create a feeling of 'entitlement', which will no doubt cloud the manner in which someone acts or makes decisions. A healthy community is created by diversity and different view points.

Unknown

Hello Task Force- I wish to express an opinion. Financially, it is now impossible for independent candidates to be elected in Vancouver unless the person is very high profile and has the backing of the media and an enormous budget. Vancouver retains the at-large system which requires approx. 35,000 votes to even come near being elected. Most people vote a slate and will follow their choice for Mayor and that slate. The City then has a block of councillors who do tend to vote as a slate on issues. I will not comment on the Ward System idea since it is not currently the reality. I think it would be a more democratic arrangement if we had some elected officials with an independent analysis for the future of our City. Considering the finances which are key: I suggest that there be limits to corporate and union contributions - that there be a spending limit and that candidates be encouraged to seek individual financial contributions. Also that financial contributions should be defined such that they do not raise a conflict of interest to elected officials when it comes to decision-making. Vancouver and Surrey, the two largest cities in the lower mainland both have this party process for elections. Personally, I do not prefer this party politics at the Municipal level and believe that it does not bode well for critical decision-making. I will comment on the Metro Board arrangement. In the past a certain number of the Board members were elected during the Municipal election. I believe that we should return to a predominantly elected Metro Board. This would help with accountability and would also help to educate the voters about this very important, highly financed institution. At present, there is voter apathy and in my opinion the only way to minimize this is to provide more opportunity for the citizens to believe that their vote really does matter. Currently most voters just go through the motions and really have very little idea of what the individual candidates represent. We can do better than this. I encourage you to present your thinking that reflects greater representation from our communities and more accountability for decisions made. I look forward to reading your results of considerations.

Unknown

As a citizen, I welcome the opportunity to express my misgivings on the Civic governance, in Vancouver. It is high time for a ward system where we can assure ourselves of accountability by our elected leaders. The current "at large" system does not reflect community concerns which all too often result in bad decisions made by council.

In addition, the City tends to favour development decisions - supported by large development companies and corporate interest. This too needs to be curtailed, as all too often local community concerns are brushed aside in favour of a pro development council even when the community at large says no to developments.

Finally, Civic and governments in general tend to get involved into mega \$ project. Often these projects come from out of the blue and certainly many of these projects are not discussed as part of an election platform. For example City bailing out the Olympic Village (this concern is not a reflection on the Olympics) but as taxpayers the City is acting as a major developer, which in our believe is not in their mandate. Similarly the decisions around rapid transit and densification of communities without meaningful and informed consensus by the residents, while often selecting for the most expensive solutions, is worry some.

Indeed, we as citizen like to see more plebiscites on large capital expenditures, which would potentially have significant impact on the local tax base, to ensure more checks and balances on council decisions and ensure through community input and democracy, which currently is questionable.

Unknown

I think it's unfortunate that the terms of reference of the task force are limited to the above areas.

A far more important area for discussion and investigation is that right of individual municipalities to adopt alternate methods of electing councils that are an alternative to the present first-past-the-post system, which is very undemocratic in that it produces governments

that are elected by 35 -45% of the voters, and member of government that are elected by even less.

Unknown

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 2:27 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your website
Attachments: ~WRD000.jpg; image001.jpg

Hi...

Let me know when you have the new PDF and I'll get it posted....

Thanks
Michael

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 2:25 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX; Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your website

Let's take off the whole excerpt – we don't want to get into picking and choosing therefore let's remove the whole thing. Yes, Grace, please advise them that it has been removed.

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 1:53 PM
To: Local Elections Task Force CD:EX; Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your website

Hi....

Just wondering a couple of things...do we set a precedent for removing certain things but not others? Rarely do we know who is actually "right" in any given circumstance – is this the case in this situation?

Michael

From: Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 1:29 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: FW: Please remove an offensive statement from your website
Importance: High

Hello:

I've taken out the paragraphs – see page 3 and re-PDF-ed – see attached.

Shall someone contact them saying it's been done if it is done?

s.22



s.22



Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 3:17 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX; Brown, Tom G CD:EX; Glickman, Marika PAB:EX; Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX
Subject: FW: Please remove an offensive statement from your website
Attachments: image002.gif

Importance: High

s.14

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 3:01 PM
To: Web CD\TCA:EX
Cc: Glickman, Marika PAB:EX; Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX
Subject: FW: Please remove an offensive statement from your website
Importance: High

Hi there...

We need to have the following files immediately posted to PROD – Nicola has approved.

http://www.test.localelectiontaskforce.gov.bc.ca/feedback_individuals.html
http://www.test.localelectiontaskforce.gov.bc.ca/library/Submissions_Prior_to_February_1_Revised.pdf

thanks
Michael

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 2:25 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX; Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your website

Let's take off the whole excerpt – we don't want to get into picking and choosing therefore let's remove the whole thing. Yes, Grace, please advise them that it has been removed.

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 1:53 PM
To: Local Elections Task Force CD:EX; Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your website

Hi....
Just wondering a couple of things...do we set a precedent for removing certain things but not others? Rarely do we know who is actually "right" in any given circumstance – is this the case in this situation?

Michael

From: Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 1:29 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Marson, Michael CD:EX

Subject: FW: Please remove an offensive statement from your website
Importance: High

Hello:

I've taken out the paragraphs – see page 3 and re-PDF-ed – see attached.

Shall someone contact them saying it's been done if it is done?

s.22

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 4:30 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: FW: Please remove an offensive statement from your website
Attachments: image001.gif

For the record.

From: Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 2:29 PM

s.22

Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your website

Hello:

The item has been removed.

s.22

s.22



Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 5:45 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: FW: Letter from Mayor Robertson Re: City of Vancouver Submission to the Local Government Elections Task Force
Attachments: Mayor Robertson City of Vancouver Ltr to Local Government Elections Task Force April 12.pdf

Did you ask the other day if this had come in yet?

From: Bertrand, Dana [mailto:dana.bertrand@vancouver.ca]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 5:00 PM
To: Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Subject: Letter from Mayor Robertson Re: City of Vancouver Submission to the Local Government Elections Task Force

Please find the attached letter from Mayor Robertson. The original will be sent in the mail.

Thank you,

Dana

Dana Bertrand
Office of the Mayor
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4
phone: 604-873-7624
fax: 604-873-7685
dana.bertrand@vancouver.ca

<<Mayor Robertson City of Vancouver Ltr to Local Government Elections Task Force April 12.pdf>>

ni? ct xa?amata?, ta ?nimat?, ta tamax? ?i? ta k'wa?k'wa 1 *
We watch over the land and sea and in turn they watch over us.

April 12, 2010

Local Government Elections Task Force
c/o Ministry of Community and Rural Development
PO Box 9839 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9T1

Attention Harry Nyce and Bill Bennett, Co-Chairs

Re: City of Vancouver Submission to the Local Government Elections Task Force

Dear Mr. Nyce and Mr. Bennett:

On behalf of the City of Vancouver, I am pleased to submit Council's recommendations to the Local Government Elections Task Force.

The recommendations contained in the attached report to Council were developed by a Sub-Committee of Council, composed of Councillors Ellen Woodsworth, Suzanne Anton, and George Chow. On March 25, 2010, Council debated and amended the Sub-Committee's recommendations, and the following resolutions were adopted as final:

- A. THAT Council endorse the recommendations of the Sub-Committee of Council to the Local Government Elections Task Force, as contained in the Administrative Report entitled "Submission to Local Government Elections Task Force" dated March 12, 2010, and summarized below.
1. Set limits on the annual amount of contributions that can be given by an individual to an elector organization, campaign organizer, or an individual seeking elected office.
 2. Ban union and corporate donations.
 3. Limit the amount of money that may be spent annually by an elector organization, campaign organizer, or an individual seeking elected office during a general local election campaign.
 4. These limits on contributions and expenditures would be based upon a per-electoral/capita, per-candidate formula (with individual candidate resources allowed to be pooled for use by elector organizations) and would be no higher than provincial and federal spending limits.
 5. Disallow contributions to an elector organization, campaign organizer, or an individual seeking elected office, from sources outside of Canada.
 6. Require that all donations and expenses for candidates, elected officials and elector organizations be disclosed on a continuous basis at six month intervals.
 7. Implement a system of tax credits for municipal donations, similar to those for provincial and federal elections.



8. Change the definition of "candidate" to include anyone seeking nomination within an elector organization for candidacy to a local government office.
 9. Appoint the Provincial Chief Election Officer to oversee municipal elections in BC, and establish penalties and mechanisms for enforcement of offences under the amended local government elections legislation.
 10. Extend municipal terms of office to four years.
 11. Oppose allowing corporations the right to vote in local elections.
 12. Provide local governments with the authority to use any method of elections they wish to use, and repeal the requirement for Lieutenant Governor in Council approval to adopt such a change.
 13. Amend the definition of election offences and related penalties to include individuals acting as an intermediary in third-party campaign contribution schemes
- B. THAT the Administrative Report dated March 12, 2010, entitled "Submission to Local Government Elections Task Force" and Recommendations clearly reflect the importance of Council having the ability to choose from a greater number of electoral reforms.
- C. THAT the Report to the Task Force reflects that Council unanimously approved the recommendations except for Item 4 where there were two dissenting votes.

The report of the sub-committee to Council, dated March 12, 2010, is enclosed to provide context to Vancouver's recommendations. Please note that the recommendations contained in Appendix A of the report were superseded by the final recommendations as adopted in the resolutions above.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss Vancouver's input to the Task Force further and look forward to the report of the Local Government Elections Task Force.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregor Robertson".

Gregor Robertson
MAYOR

**Supports Item No. 6
P&E Committee Agenda
March 25, 2010**



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: March 12, 2010
Contact: Clrs Woodsworth,
Anton and Chow
Contact No.: 7240;7248;7245
RTS No.: 8631
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: March 23, 2010

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Sub-Committee of Council on Electoral Reform
Councillors Ellen Woodsworth, Suzanne Anton, and George Chow

SUBJECT: Submission to the Local Government Elections Task Force

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorse the draft recommendations of the Sub-Committee of Council to the Local Government Elections Task Force, as contained in this report and summarized in Appendix A.

COUNCIL POLICY

At the Regular Council meeting following the Standing Committee on Planning and Environment, January 21, 2010, Council resolved:

THAT the City of Vancouver strike a Committee composed of Councillors Woodsworth, Chow and Anton and a representative from the Mayor's Office to receive input from the public and, with assistance from the City Manager's Office, prepare a proposal to the Provincial Electoral Reform Commission for approval by Council.

THAT the submission include the City of Vancouver's Motion submitted to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities on campaign finance reform and relevant recommendations from the 2004 Vancouver Electoral Reform Commission final report.

THAT the City write to the Provincial Electoral Reform Commission to urgently request they hold a Public Hearing in Vancouver.

PURPOSE

This report provides draft recommendations for a Council submission to the Provincial Local Government Elections Task Force. It is based on work done by a Committee composed of Councillors Anton, Chow and Woodsworth, and a representative from the Mayor's Office.

BACKGROUND

Interest in the issue of electoral reform for local governments has grown in recent years in Vancouver. The goal of improving local democracy, accountability, and fairness has been debated by a number of previous Councils, but legislative change has been minimal. Ultimately, substantial changes to the way Vancouver conducts elections must be made by the Provincial Government through legislative changes to the Vancouver Charter.

In 2004, Vancouver Council appointed former BC Supreme Court Judge, Thomas Berger, to head a commission on electoral reform. The Commission engaged in months of public consultation, a review of studies conducted by academic experts in electoral systems, and analysis of electoral systems in other cities. In June, 2004, Mr. Berger submitted a comprehensive report that included twenty-three recommendations for the improvement of democracy in Vancouver <http://vancouver.ca/erc>. Eight of those recommendations were forwarded to the Minister of Community Services for legislative amendments, and to date only two have been partially addressed.

In September 2009, Premier Campbell announced the creation of a Local Government Elections Task Force <http://www.localelectiontaskforce.gov.bc.ca>. Co-chaired by Harry Nyce, the President of UBCM, and Bill Bennett, the Minister of Community and Rural Development, the Task Force will provide recommendations to the Province and Union of British Columbia Municipalities by May 30, 2010.

The Task Force is considering specific issues related to local government elections under the following topics:

- Campaign finance, including contribution/spending disclosure and limits, and tax credits
- Enforcement processes and outcomes
- Role of the chief electoral officer (B.C.) in local government elections
- Election cycle (term of office)
- Corporate vote
- Other agreed upon matters (e.g. matters raised in UBCM resolutions such as eligibility of local government volunteers to be candidates)

The Task Force has asked for written comments on these issues as soon as possible, and preferably by April 15, 2010.

In response to the Province's Task Force, Council unanimously passed a motion on January 21, 2010 to prepare a submission on behalf of the City. Since the motion was passed, members of

the Sub-Committee of Council have met to discuss the topics under consideration by the Task Force and propose the recommendations which follow.

DISCUSSION

Campaign finance reform

In 2009, Council approved a comprehensive motion as a submission to the UBCM on changes for campaign finance reform. These included requests for the Province to:

- set limits on the annual amount of contributions that can be given by an individual or organization to an elector organization, campaign organizer, or an individual seeking elected office; and
- limit the amount of money that may be spent annually by an elector organization, campaign organizer, or an individual seeking elected office during a general local election campaign; and
- disallow contributions to an elector organization, campaign organizer, or an individual seeking elected office, from sources outside of Canada.

The Committee feels that these recommendations should be forwarded to the Task Force. As municipalities vary in size and population, the Committee also feels it is best to recommend *principles* for the Province to adopt across BC, rather than prescribing specific policy (i.e. a dollar figure for donation limits). It will be left to the Task Force to determine an appropriate donation limit for municipal elections.

Transparency in the financing of municipal election campaigns needs to be improved. The Committee recommends that continuous disclosure at six month intervals of all donations be required of candidates, elected officials and electoral organizations. A request to the Province for restrictions on campaign spending was made in 2005 by Vancouver Council, but was not acted on.

On the issue of union and corporate donations, the Committee believes that rather than banning them outright, as is the case at the federal level, that the Province should implement a donation limit. A strict ban on union and corporate donations could make it very difficult to run effective election campaigns in both highly populated areas as well as large rural municipalities.

The Committee also strongly believes that the Province should provide a system of tax credits for municipal donations, to bring them in line with federal and provincial donations.

In recent years, nomination campaigns (i.e. for nomination within an elector organization) have grown in size and scope at the municipal level, whether they are for Mayor, Councilor, Park Board Commissioner, or School Trustee. The Committee recommends that Council ask the Province to amend the definition of "candidate" in the legislation to include candidates for nomination, whether the nomination is successful or not.

If there are concerns from municipalities throughout the Province regarding the technical impact of potential legislative changes, the Committee recommends that the Province enact legislation providing flexibility to Vancouver in the Vancouver Charter. At minimum, Vancouver Council requests that there be limits on campaign donations and expenditures, as well as the requirement for disclosure of donations, in time for the 2011 election.

Elections enforcement

There is a lack of appropriate enforcement mechanisms at the municipal level to deal with violations of election rules effectively and in a timely manner. The Committee requests that the Province appoint the Provincial Chief Election Officer to oversee municipal elections in BC and establish mechanisms for enforcement of offences.

Election cycle

The fact that municipal elected officials serve three-year terms is one of the reasons that there is an increasing emphasis on political fundraising, as elections are frequent. The Committee unanimously supports the call for the Province to introduce legislation amending municipal terms to four years.

Corporate Vote

While other municipalities in BC have had some form of corporate vote in the past, the City of Vancouver never has. Concerns around the amount of local ownership of a company to be eligible to vote, the requirements for being based in the City, and the ability to enforce such a provision were all determining factors in the Committee recommending *against* bringing any form of corporate vote to Vancouver or in the Province.

Other issues

Alternative Voting Process:

The issue of municipal electoral reform is one best decided at the local level. Currently, the City of Vancouver has the power to implement a ward system (neighbourhood constituencies), as opposed to the current at-large system of government. In 2005, the City of Vancouver requested the Province amend the Vancouver Charter to allow Council the option to adopt a proportional representation system.

The Committee recommends that the City of Vancouver be provided with the legislative authority to adopt an alternate voting process. Whether in an at-large or wards environment, the Charter presently only provides authority for a first-past-the-post voting system. Vancouver seeks the flexibility to adopt another established voting system that provides improved representation for electors.

Specifically, it is requested that the Vancouver Charter section 138 be amended to provide local governments with the authority to use any method of elections they wish to use, and to repeal section 138(4) requiring Lieutenant Governor in Council approval to adopt such a change.

Third Party Campaign Contributions ("Funneling"):

The current legislation states that the acceptance of a campaign contribution or the making of a campaign contribution through a third party is an offence. Penalties apply for both the individual who makes or accepts such a contribution, but does not apply to the intermediary party. The Committee recommends that the definition of election offenses and related penalties be expanded to include individuals acting as an intermediary in third-party campaign contributions.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

CONCLUSION

The Provincial Government's decision to create a Local Government Elections Task Force is the best opportunity for substantial municipal election reform in many years. A clear message calling for improved accountability, oversight, and financial regulation of municipal elections will improve the strength of local democracy in Vancouver and across the Province.

* * * * *

Appendix A

Summary of Recommendations to the Local Government Elections Task Force

- Set limits on the annual amount of contributions that can be given by an individual or organization to an elector organization, campaign organizer, or an individual seeking elected office, similar to those at the federal level
- Limit the amount of money that may be spent annually by an elector organization, campaign organizer, or an individual seeking elected office during a general local election campaign, similar to those at the provincial and federal level
- Disallow contributions to an elector organization, campaign organizer, or an individual seeking elected office, from sources outside of Canada
- Require that all donations and expenses for candidates, elected officials and elector organizations be disclosed on a continuous basis at six month intervals
- Implement a system of tax credits for municipal donations, similar to those for provincial and federal elections
- Change the definition of "candidate" to include anyone seeking nomination within an elector organization for candidacy to a local government office
- Appoint the Provincial Chief Election Officer to oversee municipal elections in BC, and establish penalties and mechanisms for enforcement of offences under the amended local government elections legislation
- Extend municipal terms of office to four years
- Oppose allowing corporations the right to vote in local elections
- Provide local governments with the authority to use any method of elections they wish to use, and repeal the requirement for Lieutenant Governor in Council approval to adopt such a change
- Amend the definition of election offenses and related penalties to include individuals acting as an intermediary in third-party campaign contribution schemes

NOTE FROM CLERK:

**THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE AMENDED BY COUNCIL
ON MARCH 25, 2010**

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 8:12 AM
To: Wall, Dale CD:EX
Cc: Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX; Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX; Cox, Brad CD:EX
Subject: FW: Letter from Mayor Robertson Re: City of Vancouver Submission to the Local Government Elections Task Force
Attachments: Mayor Robertson City of Vancouver Ltr to Local Government Elections Task Force April 12.pdf

FYI – we have finally received their official submission. Note that they attach the staff report which (at the top of p. 6) reiterates their support for greater “local choice” (in their case, specifically mentioning flexibility in the *Vancouver Charter*)

From: Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 5:45 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: FW: Letter from Mayor Robertson Re: City of Vancouver Submission to the Local Government Elections Task Force

Did you ask the other day if this had come in yet?

From: Bertrand, Dana [mailto:dana.bertrand@vancouver.ca]
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 5:00 PM
To: Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Subject: Letter from Mayor Robertson Re: City of Vancouver Submission to the Local Government Elections Task Force

Please find the attached letter from Mayor Robertson. The original will be sent in the mail.

Thank you,

Dana

Dana Bertrand
Office of the Mayor
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4
phone: 604-873-7624
fax: 604-873-7685
dana.bertrand@vancouver.ca

<<Mayor Robertson City of Vancouver Ltr to Local Government Elections Task Force April 12.pdf>>

ni? ct xatəmatal, tə t̓nimət, tə təmaxʷ ʔi? tə kʷaʔkʷə I *
We watch over the land and sea and in turn they watch over us.

April 12, 2010

Local Government Elections Task Force
c/o Ministry of Community and Rural Development
PO Box 9839 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9T1

Attention Harry Nyce and Bill Bennett, Co-Chairs

Re: City of Vancouver Submission to the Local Government Elections Task Force

Dear Mr. Nyce and Mr. Bennett:

On behalf of the City of Vancouver, I am pleased to submit Council's recommendations to the Local Government Elections Task Force.

The recommendations contained in the attached report to Council were developed by a Sub-Committee of Council, composed of Councillors Ellen Woodsworth, Suzanne Anton, and George Chow. On March 25, 2010, Council debated and amended the Sub-Committee's recommendations, and the following resolutions were adopted as final:

- A. THAT Council endorse the recommendations of the Sub-Committee of Council to the Local Government Elections Task Force, as contained in the Administrative Report entitled "Submission to Local Government Elections Task Force" dated March 12, 2010, and summarized below.
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I would welcome the opportunity to discuss Vancouver's input to the Task Force further and look forward to the report of the Local Government Elections Task Force.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregor Robertson".

Gregor Robertson
MAYOR

**Supports Item No. 6
P&E Committee Agenda
March 25, 2010**



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: March 12, 2010
Contact: Clrs Woodsworth,
Anton and Chow
Contact No.: 7240;7248;7245
RTS No.: 8631
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: March 23, 2010

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Sub-Committee of Council on Electoral Reform
Councillors Ellen Woodsworth, Suzanne Anton, and George Chow

SUBJECT: Submission to the Local Government Elections Task Force

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorse the draft recommendations of the Sub-Committee of Council to the Local Government Elections Task Force, as contained in this report and summarized in Appendix A.

COUNCIL POLICY

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THAT the City of Vancouver strike a Committee composed of Councillors Woodsworth, Chow and Anton and a representative from the Mayor's Office to receive input from the public and, with assistance from the City Manager's Office, prepare a proposal to the Provincial Electoral Reform Commission for approval by Council.

THAT the submission include the City of Vancouver's Motion submitted to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities on campaign finance reform and relevant recommendations from the 2004 Vancouver Electoral Reform Commission final report.

THAT the City write to the Provincial Electoral Reform Commission to urgently request they hold a Public Hearing in Vancouver.

PURPOSE

This report provides draft recommendations for a Council submission to the Provincial Local Government Elections Task Force. It is based on work done by a Committee composed of Councillors Anton, Chow and Woodsworth, and a representative from the Mayor's Office.

BACKGROUND

Interest in the issue of electoral reform for local governments has grown in recent years in Vancouver. The goal of improving local democracy, accountability, and fairness has been debated by a number of previous Councils, but legislative change has been minimal. Ultimately, substantial changes to the way Vancouver conducts elections must be made by the Provincial Government through legislative changes to the Vancouver Charter.

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- Other agreed upon matters (e.g. matters raised in UBCM resolutions such as eligibility of local government volunteers to be candidates)

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The Committee recommends that the City of Vancouver be provided with the legislative authority to adopt an alternate voting process. Whether in an at-large or wards environment, the Charter presently only provides authority for a first-past-the-post voting system. Vancouver seeks the flexibility to adopt another established voting system that provides improved representation for electors.

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

CONCLUSION

The Provincial Government's decision to create a Local Government Elections Task Force is the best opportunity for substantial municipal election reform in many years. A clear message calling for improved accountability, oversight, and financial regulation of municipal elections will improve the strength of local democracy in Vancouver and across the Province.

Appendix A

Summary of Recommendations to the Local Government Elections Task Force

- Set limits on the annual amount of contributions that can be given by an individual or organization to an elector organization, campaign organizer, or an individual seeking elected office, similar to those at the federal level
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- Change the definition of "candidate" to include anyone seeking nomination within an elector organization for candidacy to a local government office
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- Provide local governments with the authority to use any method of elections they wish to use, and repeal the requirement for Lieutenant Governor in Council approval to adopt such a change
- Amend the definition of election offenses and related penalties to include individuals acting as an intermediary in third-party campaign contribution schemes

NOTE FROM CLERK:

THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE AMENDED BY COUNCIL
ON MARCH 25, 2010

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 11:48 AM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX; Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: Submissions for LGETF Web Site

Hello:

Here are submissions received yesterday and today that could be posted – pending Nicola's review and go-ahead.

Local Government Submissions:

White Rock:

I:\Locgov_dept_common\LGD_Shared\LGPRB\Projects\ElectionsTaskForce\StakeholderEngagement\WebSiteDocuments\Local Government Submissions for Web Posting\White Rock City of April 2010.pdf

Squamish:

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North Cowichan:

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Port Edward:

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Vancouver:

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Burnaby:

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Burns Lake:

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Organization Submissions:

Dunbar RA:

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SD 63 – Saanich:

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BCGEU:

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Hope to have an "Individuals" PDF to you later today.

Grace Van den Brink
A/Assistant Director
Local Government - First Nations Relations
Ministry of Community and Rural Development
Tel: 250 356-5673
Email: Grace.VandenBrink@gov.bc.ca

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 4:32 PM
To: 'gmacisaac@ubcm.ca'; 'mcrawford@ubcm.ca'
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
Subject: For review - LGETF docs for Thursday send-out

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi Gary & Marie

Attached are some documents for your review that we want to send out with the package to LGETF members that's meant to go out on Thursday.

2008 Election survey results



Overview -
lection Survey Res.

Corporate vote – summary & analysis of business community approach; a copy of the memo we received from them



s.13

s.13

The record of decision or revised recommendations outline are still under development/revision and are still to come. Stay tuned for more and thanks for meeting with us this morning. It was very helpful.

Alayna

Alayna van Leeuwen
Senior Policy Analyst
Local Government Policy and Research Branch
Ministry of Community and Rural Development, British Columbia

Phone: (250) 356-7020
Fax: (250) 387-6212
Email: Alayna.vanLeeuwen@gov.bc.ca

Pages 119 through 136 redacted for the following reasons:

s.13

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 4:24 PM
To: Sutherland, Don CD:EX
Cc: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: RE: Task Force Report

Don: My apologies if I haven't kept you in the loop (this thing is moving and shifting so fast that I can't remember who I've been talking to and who I haven't).

Attached is a draft outline of the report. I'm pretty sure that you were sent an earlier version of this, but can't recall whether we chatted about this. UBCM is generally o.k. with this as a framework, and we will be discussing this as a general idea with the Task Force next week.



Outline.docx

Also attached is a document that I just put together and sent to Dale this morning. It is a very first cut at thinking about the process for delivering the report and then all the implementation afterward. The one thing in there that is most relevant from your perspective is that we are focusing on web site publishing (trying to avoid the need for a print run). The other thing that is relevant to you is the question of timing (we are assuming that publication on the web would be very shortly – possibly even the next day – after May 30. Am waiting to get feedback from Dale on this and then will be discussing with UBCM.



Process for
implementing repor

It would be great if you could think of a couple of graphic ideas for the cover of an electronic report (and also one that would work printed, in case we need to go there). I suspect that we will be having a discussion about report process at the May 11 Task Force meeting, so having something that we could discuss with UBCM staff in the last week of April would be tremendous.

Thanks!

Nicola

From: Sutherland, Don CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 4:08 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Cc: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: Task Force Report

Hi Nicola,

I presume (always a dangerous thing) that the Ministry will be tasked with designing (and potentially printing) the Local Government Elections Task Force report. If so, we should meet fairly soon to think about the design and the table of contents.

If the report is intended to be a simple Word document then we probably don't need much discussion. If it is going to have a cover with colours, then there are more things to discuss.

As it will be a joint Ministry/UBCM report, we will probably have more flexibility about some of the design features. For example, we may not be limited to using blue and gold as the primary colors. We know the two logos, title and TF name must appear on the cover but that's about it at this point. We could potentially mock up a couple of graphic ideas for the TF to consider if you think that would be necessary.

As far as the table of contents is concerned, the report could include an introduction, the joint letter signed by the co-chairs presenting the report to (the Premier?), acknowledgements, recommendations, glossary and appendices.

I believe you are going to discuss the contents of the report next week with the TF. Do you want to wait until after that meeting to discuss this further?

Don Sutherland
Director
Advisory Services Branch
Ministry of Community and Rural Development
Phone: 250 387-4025 Fax: 250 387-7972
Website: <http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/>

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 8:02 AM
To: Wall, Dale CD:EX
Cc: Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX; Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX; Sutherland, Don CD:EX
Subject: Elections Task Force -- Next Steps

Dale:

Further to our discussion yesterday, here is the document setting out some thoughts regarding the process for delivering, obtaining decisions on and implementing recommendations of the Task Force. As mentioned, at this time this has been put together just for your consideration. However as noted under "Next Steps", we will need to have a discussion with UBCM staff to see what their views might be on process they will need to go through before we can determine if the steps laid out in this document are feasible. As I would anticipate that members of the Task Force might start to raise the issue of "what is our process" as we start discussing recommendations and what the report outline could look (at next week's meeting), it will be important to be able to start that discussion (at least on a preliminary basis) with UBCM staff quite soon. As well, it will be important to soon get a sense from the Minister as to his preferences and the role (if any) for the Premier.

Look forward to your thoughts on this.

Nicola



Process for
implementing repor

Pages 140 through 143 redacted for the following reasons:

s.13

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:12 AM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your webiste
Attachments: image001.gif

Excellent news – thanks for thinking ahead on this!

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:06 AM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: FW: Please remove an offensive statement from your webiste

Hi...
Marika and I have agreed that if anything else comes up where we receive Minister/Executive/Legal direction to do something...that we can ask ISB to post to PROD without waiting on PAB approval.
Seem like a small detail but it give us more flexibility and more certainty to ISB staff.

Michael

From: Glickman, Marika PAB:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:02 AM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your webiste

I will chat with Sally...

Marika Glickman, M.A., M.Ed.
Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Community and Rural Development
800 Johnson Street, 6th floor
250.387.8031

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:02 AM
To: Glickman, Marika PAB:EX
Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your webiste

Super...however ISB generally won't do anything without your approval...unless they are told otherwise....any suggestions?

From: Glickman, Marika PAB:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:01 AM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your webiste

No worries. In those situations, don't wait for us!

Marika Glickman, M.A., M.Ed.
Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Community and Rural Development
800 Johnson Street, 6th floor
250.387.8031

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 8:56 AM
To: Glickman, Marika PAB:EX
Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your webiste

As always ☺

Lol....it got done and that's the main thing...

Somehow we need to be able to respond to Executive/Minister/Legal direction quickly without ISB waiting on PAB approval.

In this case it was something slanderous, our legal council recommended its removal and we had to do it quickly.

Glad there is only about a month to go on this project...

Michael

From: Glickman, Marika PAB:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 8:52 AM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your webiste

Good question. We don't need to see the discussion papers, but significant changes to content of the website text should probably come our way. We didn't need to approve the removal of the submission, but it was good to keep us in the loop. Clear as mud?

Marika Glickman, M.A., M.Ed.
Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Community and Rural Development
800 Johnson Street, 6th floor
250.387.8031

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 8:48 AM
To: Glickman, Marika PAB:EX
Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your webiste

Hi...

It's my understanding from Nicola is that anything LGETF-related is already "pre-approved". Is that your understanding as well? Or is that pre-approval limited to specific things?

MM

From: Glickman, Marika PAB:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 8:46 AM
To: Web CD\TCA:EX; Marson, Michael CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX
Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your webiste

Thank you very much for making these changes live. Approved.

Marika Glickman, M.A., M.Ed.
Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Community and Rural Development
800 Johnson Street, 6th floor
250.387.8031

From: Web CD\TCA:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 4:42 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX; Web CD\TCA:EX
Cc: Glickman, Marika PAB:EX; Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX
Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your website

Hi all,

I did posted these -- without waiting for PAB approval... Marika, could you please a written confirmation for this?

http://www.localelectiontaskforce.gov.bc.ca/feedback_individuals.html
<http://www.localelectiontaskforce.gov.bc.ca/library/Submissions Prior to February 1 Revised.pdf>

Ayano

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 3:01 PM
To: Web CD\TCA:EX
Cc: Glickman, Marika PAB:EX; Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX
Subject: FW: Please remove an offensive statement from your website
Importance: High

Hi there...

We need to have the following files immediately posted to PROD -- Nicola has approved.

http://www.test.localelectiontaskforce.gov.bc.ca/feedback_individuals.html
<http://www.test.localelectiontaskforce.gov.bc.ca/library/Submissions Prior to February 1 Revised.pdf>

thanks
Michael

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 2:25 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX; Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your website

Let's take off the whole excerpt -- we don't want to get into picking and choosing therefore let's remove the whole thing. Yes, Grace, please advise them that it has been removed.

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 1:53 PM

To: Local Elections Task Force CD:EX; Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: RE: Please remove an offensive statement from your website

Hi....

Just wondering a couple of things...do we set a precedent for removing certain things but not others? Rarely do we know who is actually "right" in any given circumstance – is this the case in this situation?

Michael

From: Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 1:29 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: FW: Please remove an offensive statement from your website
Importance: High

Hello:

I've taken out the paragraphs – see page 3 and re-PDF-ed – see attached.

Shall someone contact them saying it's been done if it is done?

s.22

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2010 9:01 AM
To: MacLean, Ian CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Davis, Richard CD:EX
Subject: RE: ETF

Hi,

- There are no restrictions on how much money can be spend in local government elections; the current campaign finance system emphasises *transparency*
- All election expenses, including debts must be disclosed in a campaign finance disclosure statement within 120 days after the election (LGA s. 90);
- Disclosure statements must be updated within 30 days after the candidate or financial agent becomes aware that the information in the report has changed (LGA s. 90.1). This means that any new contributions to pay off debts *must* be disclosed by a supplementary report.
- Debts that are "forgiven" are contributions (LGA s. 89) and must be recorded as such.

Hope this helps, Deidre

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2010 8:26 AM
To: Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
Subject: FW: ETF
Importance: High

Deidre: Could you please put together a couple of bullets that could be sent to Ian ASAP. Thanks Nicola

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2010 8:07 AM
To: MacLean, Ian CD:EX
Subject: RE: ETF

Ian – I'll check with Deidre as soon as she is in, I know for sure that the "you can spend as much as you like" is right, but the comment about "you don't have to disclose..." may not be fully accurate. We'll get back to you very soon. Nicola

From: MacLean, Ian CD:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2010 8:03 AM

To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Cc: Davis, Richard CD:EX
Subject: ETF

Good morning Nicola. Can you have a look at the bold print below. Is this true?

Local government election campaign financing

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

By CBC On the Island

Gregor Craigie: There is another issue on the agenda of the task force on local government elections that's generating even more controversy. That issue is the lack of rules governing local election campaign financing. A Vancouver-based group called Think City has been gathering public opinion on this issue, and Think City chair Neil Monckton joins me now.

Neil Monckton, good morning to you.

Neil Monckton: Good morning, Gregor.

Craigie: Why is campaign finance an issue for which the local government elections task force needs to recommend changes, in your view?

Monckton: Well, quite simply there are no limits on the money spent and raised in elections, which really creates an unlevel playing field for some of the candidates. In Vancouver's case, for example, we have elections that are four to five times more expensive than, say, a federal election per capita. We have the most expensive elections in the country. And then whether there is the actual... There's a perception of corruption and sometimes actual corruption that comes along with it, and already from the 2008 election there have been several inquiries launched in municipalities and police investigations of financial campaign irregularities.

Craigie: Just to be clear, then, you're saying there are no limits on local campaign contributions in B.C.

Monckton: There are no limits. We have limits provincially; we have limits federally. There are no limits. **You can spend as much as you like. You can go into debt as much as you like, and you don't have to disclose who paid off your debt.** That's a real problem and a loophole in the system. We've done a survey of almost 3,700 British Columbians, and 93 percent plus say they want spending limits, contribution limits and full disclosure.

Craigie: Now when you say a candidate or a campaign doesn't have to disclose how a debt was paid off, are there at least rules on reporting contributions, where they came from in the first place?

Monckton: You're required to make contribution disclosure within, I think, three months after the election in terms of what you spent and raised up to the election, but there's no real requirement and certainly no enforcement of disclosure of post-campaign financing.

Craigie: You touched on it. You suggested it's been a problem with 2008 elections. Can you tell us a bit more of how it's been a problem, the campaign financing amounts and disclosure, or lack thereof, in recent years?

Monckton: Well, as I say, within your own listening area, Central Saanich, there's been quite a dispute over campaign financing, and there's been quite a bit of work done on that by citizens in West Vancouver, in Langley, in Summerland. These are other jurisdictions where this has become a problem. Even in Vancouver, although, as I say, no laws are broken, there's certainly a perception of problems. We've had donations from outside the country being used to fund campaigns, very large donations coming in to single candidates, former mayors and mayoral candidates not disclosing donations they took to fight their nomination battles, which probably amounted into the, you know, several hundreds of thousands of dollars.

So money is playing a role in elections, but citizens don't know to what degree it is and what impact that has on council decisions.

Craigie: And do you have an idea, whether it's in Central Saanich or West Vancouver or wherever, what kind of a difference tighter campaign finance rules might have made in some of those cases?

Monckton: Well, I think, ultimately, knowing who is paying for elections and how much is being spent makes everything transparent. As I say, even if there isn't actual corruption, it's the perception that is a problem.

I'll give you an example here. During the election in 2008 in Vancouver the developer involved with the Olympic Village decided to drop off campaign donations at city hall before the election. Now, that developer obviously was in a lot of trouble, and it was a major issue in the election. The only reason the public knew about that is because it was leaked to the media. That donation, coming at that time, was rather unseemly.

Again, as I say, there is a perception problem as well as an actual problem, and I think that what we have is it undermines people's, I guess, trust in the process and trust in politics. We certainly see a problem in local elections with low voter turnout. So we need to deal with the cynicism people have around elections, and other jurisdictions - Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba - all have very strict finance regulations.

Craigie: And strict, what, everything - disclosure, caps on amounts of donations, and so on?

Monckton: Yes, absolutely. You know, in Toronto a mayoral candidate can only take up to \$2,500 from one person or individual in terms of a corporation or union. There is very strict spending limits, as well, in Toronto, and there is many, many other jurisdictions that do the same.

Craigie: Well, we'll see whether the task force in this province recommends B.C. adopting similar rules.

Neil Monckton, thank you for outlining your concerns. I appreciate you joining us.

Monckton: Great, thanks very much, Gregor. [crdd, igr]

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2010 11:34 AM
To: Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Russo, Stephen CD:EX
Subject: FW: RCMP - LGA Submission
Attachments: LGATaskForceReport100415final.doc

Hi,

The submission from the RCMP - ready to be posted!

D

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew KOCZERZUK [mailto:andrew.koczerzuk@rcmp-grc.gc.ca]
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2010 11:03 AM
To: Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
Cc: Dan Splinter; Lesley BAIN
Subject: RCMP - LGA Submission

Good Day Ms. Wilson,

Inspector Bain has authorized me to forward this final version of our submission to you.

I trust you will find that the information you provided us is accurately presented.

I will be off work for a few days and as a result would suggest that should you have any questions or concerns that you contact Insp. Bain (I know you have her contact information).

Thank you again for this opportunity and your assistance in providing information regarding our submission.

Regards,

Andrew Koczerzuk

Andrew Koczerzuk,
A/OIC "E"CCS
Sensitive Investigations



**RCMP "E" Division Commercial Crime Section
Local Government Act Enforcement Analysis and
Recommandations**

Prepared for:

Local Government Act Task Force

Sponsored by:

*"E" Division Commercial
Crime Section*

Prepared By:

Andrew Koczerzuk

Date:

April 15, 2010

Note: This report is a redacted version of a report prepared for RCMP management. This version of the report has been vetted to maintain the privacy rights of individuals.

RCMP



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

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1. Executive Summary

In May of 2008, the Government of British Columbia enacted numerous amendments to the *Local Government Act*¹ ("LGA" or the "Act"). These amendments had the effect of greatly expanding the ambit of persons and organizations covered by the Act and also introduced stringent new registration and reporting requirements related to election financing.

In the aftermath of the November 2008 Municipal Election (the "Election"), both the RCMP and other municipal police services received complaints pursuant to the Act. The subsequent police investigations surfaced several concerns and challenges relating to the enforcement of the Act. Foremost among these concerns was the belief held by local police services that they faced a real, or at a minimum, a perceived conflict of interest. Regardless of their actions, detachment commanders expressed concern that they would be harshly criticized and their decisions attributed to their relationship with the affected local government. In addition, investigators were faced with legislation in respect of which they had little or no relevant expertise. Moreover, these complaints garnered significant media attention.

At least five complaints were eventually received in respect to the Act resulting in three investigations. These complaints shared intense media scrutiny and disproportionate resource requirements. Ultimately, none of these investigations resulted in charges being approved. Even in cases where Reports to Crown Counsel ("RTCCs") were completed (i.e., the Central Saanich and West Vancouver investigations), the Criminal Justice Branch determined that there was no reasonable likelihood of a conviction and/or that it was not in the public interest to prosecute the matter.

Complaints continued to be made until recently to local police by both individual concerned citizens and special interest groups. These complaints are universally accompanied with significant media interest and place local police in difficult positions vis-à-vis their local governments. Given the extraordinary resource and investigative demands which accompany LGA complaints, these requests pose serious enforcement challenges.

¹ *Local Government Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 323 [Consolidated February 7, 2008] [Enacted May 29, 2008].



The creation of a Task Force to examine the concerns and issues related to the Act by the Government of BC provides a unique and positive forum for police to present issues related to the enforcement of the Act.

The Sensitive Investigation Team ("SIT") of the RCMP "E" Division Commercial Crime Section ("E"CCS) is a specialized unit which investigates various Criminal Code offences often involving public officials. SIT has investigated a majority of the LGA complaints and has identified several specific areas which would address the concerns associated with LGA enforcement. These areas are:

- Implementation of an Administrative Review Process: the creation of an entity, or alternatively empowering Elections BC to receive and review LGA complaints to ensure that only the most serious cases are referred to police for investigation;
- Adoption of Additional Automatic Penalty Offences: amending the LGA to expand the number of offences for which regulatory or administrative remedies (also known as "automatic penalties") are applicable;
- Addition of a Limitation of Action: adding a limitation of action (currently six months from the date of the offence pursuant to s. 3(1) of the *Offence Act*) section to the LGA which would increase the limitation of action to a period of at least one year from the date of which the subject matter of the complaint is brought to the attention of the appropriate authority ;
- Conflict of Interest: addressing the actual or perceived conflict of interest arising from local police investigating allegations against their political overseers; and,
- Ensuring that police investigators have the necessary skill-set to investigate complaints pursuant to the LGA.

The purpose of this report then is to provide a contextual background for LGA investigations, identifying the challenges arising from those investigations and offering recommendations to address these challenges to the Task Force.



2. Background to the LGA Complaints

The first elections where the provisions of the LGA were applicable were the municipal elections of November, 2008. In the aftermath of that election, at least five complaints were made to police citing alleged violations of the LGA.

2.1. Langley LGA Complaint

In December of 2008, the RCMP Langley Detachment received a complaint involving numerous allegations under the Act. It was the position of the Langley Detachment of the RCMP that a clear conflict of interest existed in having local police investigate complaints against local government politicians given their relationship with City Council. Therefore it was recommended that an outside detachment or a specialized unit assume responsibility for the investigation. As the complaint also involved sitting members of the Legislature, the SIT of "E"CCS assumed a lead role in the investigation.

The investigation determined that many of the allegations were either unfounded or were not offences under the Act. The investigation further determined that an individual against whom charges could conceivably have been recommended was unaware of the requirements of the Act and complied with those requirements shortly after being contacted by police.

2.2. West Vancouver LGA Complaint

In West Vancouver, a complaint was made against a special interest group for violating the provisions of the Act in December of 2008. The WVPS conducted an investigation which resulted in an RTCC being forwarded to Crown Counsel. The Crown determined that there was no reasonable likelihood of a conviction and that it was not in the public interest to proceed with charges.

2.3. Central Saanich LGA Complaint

In July of 2009, "E" CCS received a request from the Central Saanich Police Service ("CSPS") to assume conduct of an investigation into an LGA complaint.

RCMP

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

This investigation was complicated by the fact that the limitation of action for the allegations was set to expire in five weeks. A team of investigators from the Victoria Satellite office of "E"CCS conducted a comprehensive investigation into the complaint. That particular investigation expended close to 600 person hours and resulted in an RTCC being submitted to Crown Counsel recommending charges against 19 individuals. The Crown declined to recommend charges saying only that there was no reasonable likelihood of a conviction and that it was not in the public interest to proceed with charges. This case also attracted extensive media attention.

2.4. Summerland and Gibsons LGA Complaints

In December of 2009, "E"CCS received requests for assistance from both the Gibsons and Summerland Detachments of the RCMP. It was the recommendation of "E" CCS that the detachments assess the complaints and if the allegations referred only to actions dating back to the Election, that the complainants be advised that the complaints were statute barred. In the event the facts were ambiguous or alternatively, if the Detachment Commander felt that there was a real or perceived conflict of interest issue involved, "E"CCS further recommended that the complaint be referred to a District General Investigation Section ("GIS") for investigation.

With respect to the Gibson's complaint, an opinion was obtained from "E"CCS that the specific complaint was statute barred. The complainants were accordingly advised and the file was concluded.

The Officer in Charge ("OIC") of the Penticton South Okanagan Similkameen Detachment writing on behalf of the Summerland Detachment of the RCMP, expressed significant concerns with respect to detachments that are accountable to municipal councils conducting these investigations. He concluded that this situation gave rise to a perceived conflict of interest and the perception that an investigation would not be conducted in a thorough manner. Both he and the OIC of South-East District of the RCMP expressed the opinion that LGA complaints should be referred to an arm's length investigative unit which would have "primary responsibility" for investigations under the Act.

On a secondary ground, a concern was also identified with respect to the skill set required to conduct politically sensitive investigations. Generally speaking



LGA investigations require advanced analytical skills and knowledge of the applicable statutes which may not be readily available in all areas.

In the interest of meeting all due diligence requirements and to ensure that the public was aware of the seriousness with which the RCMP views complaints regarding the electoral process, a comprehensive review of the Summerland complaint was conducted by the SIT of "E"CCS. The review identified sections of the Act that were sufficiently ambiguous to preclude a reasonable possibility of the investigation surfacing inculpatory evidence. Some of the information received provided "reasonable suspicion" that several other offences under the Act had been committed. However, the complaint was determined to be statute barred due to the expiration of the limitation of action period.

3. Investigative Challenges

Several issues combine to make investigations and prosecutions under the Act very difficult.

3.1. Limitation of Action

The Act does not provide a specific limitation of action. In the result, investigators are bound by the general limitation of action as provided for by section 3(2) of the *Offence Act (BC)*. That section states:

"If no time is specially limited for making a complaint or laying an information in the Act or law relating to the particular case, proceedings must not be instituted more than 6 months after the time when the subject matter of the proceedings arose."

This limitation of action severely hampers the investigative options available to law enforcement. It should be noted that in the normal course of events it is reasonable for a complainant to require several weeks if not months to acquire sufficient information to satisfy the general investigative standard of a 'reasonable suspicion'. Once the complaint is accepted, several more weeks may pass before an investigator becomes available to review the particulars of the complaint and determine whether a full scale investigation is justified. This step may be further

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delayed if the complaint is referred to investigators inexperienced with the provisions and requirements of the LGA. For instance, should the complaint be assigned to an inexperienced member, the member may spend several days reviewing the Act, attempting to obtain information from senior investigators or a specialized section and then formulating an effective and appropriate investigative strategy.

In the case of the Central Saanich complaint referred to "E"CCS, the complaint had been received by the Central Saanich Police Service ("CSPS") some seven weeks prior to the expiry of the limitation of action. The complaint was referred to "E"CCS five weeks prior to the expiry of the limitation of action. Given the high public interest in the complaint, "E"CCS expended considerable effort and resources to ensure that a thorough investigation along with a complete RTCC was forwarded to Crown Counsel before the limitation of action expired.

Given the complexity of investigations involving allegations of improper reporting or filing as well as the anticipated requirement to obtain search warrants [as a provincial statute, investigators are precluded from obtaining Production Orders in the investigation of LGA offences] and conduct numerous interviews, draft an RTCC and provide Crown Counsel with sufficient opportunity to review the RTCC, the limitation period provided by the *Offence Act (BC)* poses a serious and near insurmountable challenge to investigators presented with LGA complaints.

This limitation of action compares unfavourably with the limitation of action provided by other election related legislation. For example, the *Elections Act (BC)* provides for a limitation of action of one year which commences from when the matter comes to the attention of the Chief Electoral Officer. The *Canada Elections Act ("CEA")* provides for a limitation of action of five years after the date on which the matter comes to the attention of the Commissioner of Elections.

3.2. Real or Perceived Conflict of Interest

As noted in section 2.4. above, there is a strong argument against seizing local police with politically sensitive investigations that may, at least perceptually, severely challenge the framework of mutual accountability that exists between local governments and local police services whom the public rightly expects will



work together constructively. By necessity there exists a professional relationship between local police and local councils. Regardless of the investigative actions taken or the eventual outcome, the perception of untoward political influence, interference, or favoritism may be virtually inescapable and as such could be detrimental to the public's confidence in the process – both for politicians and police.

There may be LGA complaints that do not raise significant political concerns, such as when an elector organization fails to comply with technical registration and reporting requirements (e.g. sections 85, 85.01, 86 and 90 of the Act). This would not engage the same level of scrutiny as complaints against members of city council who are alleged to have engaged in the more serious offences under the Act such as “*vote buying*” (s.151), and “*intimidation*” (s.152). Nevertheless, as a general proposition, it may be said that investigations pursuant to the Act will, at a minimum, raise the potential for a perceived conflict of interest between local police and politicians.

3.3. Specialized Competencies

As with any specialized area of law enforcement, LGA investigations require a specific skill set. As the OIC of the Penticton South Okanagan Similkameen Detachment observed, there may be a lack of the skills required to conduct LGA investigations at the local detachment level. The specific competencies required (e.g. knowledge of applicable statutes and RCMP policies and procedures, superior communication and interviewing skills, the ability to conduct “sensitive” investigations) are not necessarily readily available. Virtually by definition, the investigation of offences under the Act will involve public officials and attract intense media and legal scrutiny.

While “E”CCS has extensive experience in “sensitive investigations”, the reality is that these investigations demand extraordinary resources. Moreover, the LGA is a provincial statute and the provincial component of “E”CCS is already under extreme resourcing pressures. Alternatively LGA investigations could be conducted by District General Investigation Sections who do not have the degree of proximity to the subjects of the complaint as local police. “E”CCS would continue to provide an advisory and support capability to investigators if required.



3.4. Statutory Issues

Aside from the limitation of action, the Act lacks an initial review mechanism. In addition, while the Act provides for “automatic penalties” for the late filing and failure to file disclosure statements (sections 90.2, 92(1) and 92.1), there is, from an enforcement perspective, a larger ambit of conduct that could be addressed by automatic penalties. For example, the Summerland complaint alleged that an individual had failed to provide the required “details” for a reported \$10 meeting expense. The Act lacks a mechanism to address such “*de minimus*” breaches providing only for the quasi-criminal remedy of being charged pursuant to section 153(5) of the Act. In the Central Saanich investigation, 19 individuals were found to have breached the Act by filing incomplete reports. Crown Counsel in that case declined to prosecute the matter on the grounds that there was no reasonable likelihood of conviction and that it was not in the public interest to do so.

Unlike the *Elections Act* (BC), the LGA does not provide a mechanism for the initial receipt and review of complaints. Such a mechanism is key in identifying those relatively minor issues (e.g. the above noted failure to report a \$10 expense) which should not engage police resources. Moreover, such a mechanism would ensure consistent application of the law and would develop the level of expertise necessary to deal with LGA complaints efficiently and effectively.

4. Comparative Analysis: LGA, Elections Act (BC) and the Canada Elections Act

It is useful to describe the different approaches to enforcement of the offence provisions of other electoral statutes.

4.1. LGA

The most serious offences under the Act are listed at sections 151 and 152. Section 151 prohibits “*vote buying*” and specifies the conduct prohibited under this section. Similarly, section 152 defines and prohibits “*intimidation*” with respect to



election-related activities. These offences carry severe penalties as outlined in section 154(1). Penalties for a conviction under these sections include one or more of the following: a fine of up to \$10,000, imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, a prohibition for a period not exceeding 6 years from holding elected local government office and a prohibition for a period not exceeding 6 years from voting in local government elections.

Aside from these two offences, other offences under the LGA address a wide variety of misconduct ranging from voting conduct, making false or misleading declarations to election officials, and to campaign financing. Cumulatively these other offences trigger lesser yet still substantial penalties. Breaches of reporting or filing requirements may result in one or more of the following penalties as outlined in section 154(2): fines of up to \$5,000, imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, a prohibition for a period not exceeding 6 years from holding elected local government office, and a prohibition for a period not exceeding 6 years from voting in local government elections.

There are limited provisions for automatic penalties (i.e. late filing of disclosure statements (s. 90.2) and failure to file disclosure statements (s. 92(1) and 92.1). Moreover, as noted above, the Act does not provide for a process where complaints are reviewed by elections specialists. The net result is that a wide range of activities require the use of the criminal law to address such relatively minor issues as insufficiently detailed reports.

4.2. Elections Act (BC)

The *Elections Act (BC)* was amended in May of 2008. Significantly, enforcement powers under the amended Act were assigned to the chief electoral officer (CEO)². As a result of this new duty, the CEO commissioned a review of the enforcement protocol which resulted in Elections BC entering into an MOU with the RCMP in April of 2009³ and with the BC Chiefs of Police in May of 2009 for enforcement of the *Elections Act*.

² Section 12(1)(d), *Elections Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, [Consolidated February 7, 2008].

³ Memorandum of Understanding between the RCMP and the Chief Electoral Officer of BC, dated 2009-04-30.

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The *Elections Act (BC)* adopts a very different approach to enforcement than the LGA. Under this legislation, complaints are received and reviewed by elections specialists who determine whether any breach has occurred and what the appropriate remedy is. In this approach, minor breaches are not referred to police while more serious breaches, particularly breaches which have an intent requirement, are referred to police for investigation. The benefits of this approach are clear:

- there is no ambiguity with respect to who is responsible for receiving complaints;
- employees of Elections BC are subject matter experts in election regulations and requirements;
- complaints are assessed at the earliest possible level and are not actioned unless they meet specific criteria;
- where necessary, formal police investigation remains available.

The *Elections Act (BC)* requires that any RTCC prepared by police be submitted to the CEO who retains the authority to determine whether the matter will be forwarded to the Crown for prosecution.

The limitation of action for offences pursuant to section 252(2) of the *Elections Act (BC)* is one year after the facts on which the information is based first came to the attention of the chief electoral officer. This is a significant advantage over the limitation of action (six months from the date of the offence) applicable to the LGA.

4.3. Canada Elections Act (CEA)

The CEA shares many of the features of the *Elections Act (BC)*. The CEA provides for its own internal intake, assessment and investigation of election complaints. There is a national MOU with the RCMP which authorizes the RCMP to conduct criminal investigations arising from CEA complaints when required.

The CEA provides for three levels of offences:

1. minor breaches where no intent is required (strict liability);
2. summary conviction offences requiring intent; and,
3. dual procedure offences requiring intent.



This clear delineation between offences of varying gravity provides a very flexible and *Charter* compliant approach with respect to the investigation and prosecution of offences.

With respect to the limitation period, section 514(1) of the CEA provides that a prosecution may be instituted no later than 5 years from the time the Commissioner became aware of the facts of the offence.

5. Recommendations

The Provincial Government's creation of a Task Force to improve the fairness, accountability and transparency of the elections process at the local government level is a singular opportunity to forward the concerns of police services relative to the enforcement of the Act. Although the Act affects all police services, it is clear from the number of communities that the RCMP services that it may anticipate receiving a disproportionate number of complaints. Given the high profile, gravity and expense of LGA investigations the status quo is neither desirable nor sustainable.

In light of the issues and information provided above, the following are being forwarded as recommendations for the consideration of the Task Force:

5.1. Implementation of an Administrative Review Process

The single most important improvement in terms of enforcement of the Act would be the implementation of an administrative review process identical to that used by Elections BC. The benefits of this approach were outlined in Section 4.2 of this report. To summarize, the existence of such a process would ensure that complaints were reviewed by elections specialists who would be in a position to determine if the complaint met basic criteria. This process would also ensure that only the most serious complaints would be referred to police thereby significantly reducing the number of complaints requiring police attention.

Recommendation 1: It is recommended that the Task Force consider implementing an administrative review process similar to that used by Elections

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BC to ensure that unfounded complaints did not proceed and that only the most serious complaints are forwarded to police for investigation.

5.2. Adoption of Additional Automatic Penalty Offences

As related in section 2.3, the Central Saanich LGA complaint was the only file that resulted in an RTCC being submitted by the RCMP (West Vancouver Police also submitted an RTCC in which charges were not approved by Crown counsel). Crown counsel determined that there was no reasonable likelihood of conviction and that it was not in the public interest to pursue the prosecution. In the result, complainants expressed dissatisfaction and concern with an Act which was perceived to be ineffective.

Recommendation 2: It is recommended that the Task Force consider implementing automatic penalties for a greater variety of breaches of the Act. The penalties levied would depend upon the gravity of the offence, whether there is an intent requirement, and the totality of the circumstances which gave rise to the breach. Clearly such an approach contemplates the existence of an administrative review process where the gravity of the offence as well may be assessed and an appropriate remedy, ranging from education to automatic penalties may be levied.

5.3. Addition of Limitation of Action

As noted in section 3.1, the current limitation of action for the Act is prescribed by the *Offence Act (BC)* at 6 months from when the conduct occurred. Given the challenges of obtaining and reviewing documentary and other evidence of an offence, this period is too short. In all the LGA investigations undertaken to date, the limitation period had either already expired (as in the Gibsons and Summerland complaints) or was about to expire (Langley and Central Saanich). As a result, investigators were required to work significant hours over and above their regular shift to meet the limitation period.

Recommendation 3: It is recommended that the Task Force consider adding a limitation period within the Act thereby replacing the current six month limitation period provided by the *Offence Act*. It is further recommended that the limitation period be consistent with the limitation period in the *Elections Act (BC)*,



1 year from the date when the facts of the offence are made known to the appropriate authority.

5.4. Real or Perceived Conflict of Interest

A common concern expressed by detachment commanders in Langley, Gibsons and Summerland was that of being in a real or perceived conflict of interest. This concern is well founded given the importance of the relationship that must exist between local politicians (including appointed civilian oversight/advisory boards) and the police. If we accept the argument that local police should not be seized with investigating the more serious offences under the Act, the next question becomes who should be responsible for them? There appears to be two readily identifiable options:

Option 1: Outside Police Service/Detachment

If a primary concern is one of conflict of interest, theoretically it should suffice to assign complaints under the Act to any police service or detachment outside of the municipality from where the complaint arose.

This appears to be a sound approach which addresses the issue of conflict of interest. The shortcomings of this approach would be capacity, expertise and long term continuity/consistency of investigations. The fact that there is a limitation of action of six months for offences under the Act pose a considerable demand on any service/detachment that would take on such investigations. In addition, there is no assurance that the specific skill set and expertise would be available from the assigned service/detachment.

Option 2: Specialized Unit

Consideration could be given to the creation of a pool of trained investigators familiar with the LGA within the RCMP and other Police Services. These investigators could be tasked with conducting reviews of complaints and to act as lead or primary investigators in those complaints which require further investigation. An example of this approach may be found with the SIT of "E"CCS.

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The SIT has developed a proven track record of expertise and knowledge specific to politically sensitive investigations. Indeed paragraph 8 of the MOU between the RCMP and Elections BC specifically mentions the SIT. It should also be noted that pursuant to section 14(2)(a) of the *Police Act (BC)*, the RCMP is deemed to be the provincial police service for the Province of British Columbia and therefore is the appropriate investigative body for areas where police service is provided by the RCMP.

Regardless of the model chosen to investigate LGA complaints, consideration must be given to the capacity of any given police service to meet the demands created by these investigations.

6. Conclusion

The LGA has posed several investigative challenges to police throughout BC. From an enforcement perspective, the absence of an administrative process to assess and deal with minor complaints, the short limitation period, the real or perceived conflict of interest has resulted in the expenditure of significant resources without any tangible benefit. Moreover, media reports and public opinion reflect the dissatisfaction and frustration that many complainants experience with the current process.

The recommendations made above strive to achieve greater consistency, effectiveness and public confidence in the enforcement of the Act.

Original signed and dated:

Andrew Koczerzuk, Special Advisor to the OIC "E"CCS, 2010-04-15

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marie Crawford [mcrawford@ubcm.ca]
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2010 12:17 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Gary MacIsaac
Cc: Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX; Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
Subject: Re: ETF -- Update version of summary of recommendations

Importance: High

Hi Nicola:
s.13

Thanks
Marie

Resolutions are as follows:

2001 B63 stated THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Local Government Act be amended to specify a Saturday in October as the general voting day.
- NOT ENDORSED

2003- B50 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the province amend the Local Government Act to require that general local elections take place on the third Saturday of October. NOT ENDORSED

2006-B77 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to amend the local government legislation to move the date of the local government elections from the third Saturday in November to the third Saturday in October, or provide options to accommodate absentee voters through earlier advance polls or absentee mail-in voting. - Not ENDORSED

2007-B96 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government amend the Local Government Act to move the local government election date from the third Saturday in November to the third Saturday in October. NOT ENDORSED

Marie Crawford
Associate Executive Director
UBCM
Suite 60 - 10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond, BC
V6X 2W9

Ph. 604.270.8226 ext 104
Fax 604.270.9116

Please note my new email address is: mcrawford@ubcm.ca

From: "Marotz, Nicola CD:EX" <Nicola.Marotz@gov.bc.ca>
Date: Thu, 15 Apr 2010 10:58:30 -0700
To: Gary MacIsaac <gmacisaac@ubcm.ca>, Marie Crawford <mcrawford@ubcm.ca>
Cc: "Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX" <Alayna.VanLeeuwen@gov.bc.ca>, "Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX" <Deidre.Wilson@gov.bc.ca>
Conversation: ETF -- Update version of summary of recommendations
Subject: ETF -- Update version of summary of recommendations

Gary/Marie: If you wanted to take just one further look at the summary document to see if it reflects your understanding of the discussion, that would be great. If all works, this is one of the documents that we would send to you PDFed for the agenda package today. Thanks! Nicola

<<Summary of Potential Recommendations_April 19-20 meeting.docx>>

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2010 12:24 PM
To: 'Marie Crawford'
Cc: Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX
Subject: RE: ETF -- Update version of summary of recommendations

Thanks so much for your speedy response, Marie

s.13

We should be sending to you very soon the e-mail with items for send out in the agenda package today (along with a comment that members should also be advised that the remaining materials referenced in the agenda will be provided at the meeting).

Thanks

Nicola

From: Marie Crawford [mailto:mcrawford@ubcm.ca]
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2010 12:17 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Gary MacIsaac
Cc: Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX; Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
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Marie Crawford
Associate Executive Director
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Fax 604.270.9116

Please note my new email address is: mcrawford@ubcm.ca

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Date: Thu, 15 Apr 2010 10:58:30 -0700

To: Gary MacIsaac <gmacisaac@ubcm.ca>, Marie Crawford <mcrawford@ubcm.ca>
Cc: "Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX" <Alayna.VanLeeuwen@gov.bc.ca>, "Wilson, Deldre J CD:EX" <Deldre.Wilson@gov.bc.ca>
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

April 19, 2010, 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

April 20, 2010, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Oak Room (Room 303), Legislative Buildings, Victoria, B.C.

AGENDA

April 19

12:30 – 1:30

MARCH 31-APRIL 1 MEETING

- record of decision

Direction required: approve record of decision

FEEDBACK

- **Area Association meetings** – discuss general response/comments
- **Engagement by Task Force members** – members' updates, as required
- **Report on written comments** – review summary and tracking document
- **2008 election survey** – review summary paper

Information only

1:30 – 2:30

Break

2:30 – 4:00

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS

s.13

April 20

9:30 – 12:30

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS

s.13

12:30 – 1:30
(working lunch)

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS

s.13

1:30 – 2:30

Break

2:30 – 3:30

RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

- **Draft outline** – review and discuss possible framework for the report
Direction required: what adjustment are needed to the draft outline

Pages 173 through 213 redacted for the following reasons:

s.13

Local Government election campaign financing

By CBC On the Island

14-Apr-2010

Gregor Craigie: There is another issue on the agenda of the task force on local government elections that's generating even more controversy. That issue is the lack of rules governing local election campaign financing. A Vancouver-based group called Think City has been gathering public opinion on this issue, and Think City chair Neil Monckton joins me now.

Neil Monckton, good morning to you.

Neil Monckton: Good morning, Gregor.

Craigie: Why is campaign finance an issue for which the local government **elections task force** needs to recommend changes, in your view?

Monckton: Well, quite simply there are no limits on the money spent and raised in elections, which really creates an unlevel playing field for some of the candidates. In Vancouver's case, for example, we have elections that are four to five times more expensive than, say, a federal election per capita. We have the most expensive elections in the country. And then whether there is the actual... There's a perception of corruption and sometimes actual corruption that comes along with it, and already from the 2008 election there have been several inquiries launched in municipalities and police investigations of financial campaign irregularities.

Craigie: Just to be clear, then, you're saying there are no limits on local campaign contributions in B.C.

Monckton: There are no limits. We have limits provincially; we have limits federally. There are no limits. You can spend as much as you like. You can go into debt as much as you like, and you don't have to disclose who paid off your debt. That's a real problem and a loophole in the system. We've done a survey of almost 3,700 British Columbians, and 93 percent plus say they want spending limits, contribution limits and full disclosure.

Craigie: Now when you say a candidate or a campaign doesn't have to disclose how a debt was paid off, are there at least rules on reporting contributions, where they came from in the first place?

Monckton: You're required to make contribution disclosure within, I think, three months after the election in terms of what you spent and raised up to the election, but there's no real requirement and certainly no enforcement of disclosure of post-campaign financing.

Craigie: You touched on it. You suggested it's been a problem with 2008 elections. Can you tell us a bit more of how it's been a problem, the campaign financing amounts and disclosure, or lack thereof, in recent years?

Monckton: Well, as I say, within your own listening area, Central Saanich, there's been quite a dispute over campaign financing, and there's been quite a bit of work done on that by citizens in West Vancouver, in Langley, in Summerland. These are other jurisdictions where this has become a problem. Even in Vancouver, although, as I say, no laws are broken, there's certainly a perception of problems. We've had donations from outside the country being used to fund campaigns, very large donations coming in to single candidates, former mayors and mayoral candidates not disclosing donations they took to fight their nomination battles, which probably amounted into the, you know, several hundreds of thousands of dollars.

So money is playing a role in elections, but citizens don't know to what degree it is and what impact that has on council decisions.

Craigie: And do you have an idea, whether it's in Central Saanich or West Vancouver or wherever, what kind of a difference tighter campaign finance rules might have made in some of those cases?

Monckton: Well, I think, ultimately, knowing who is paying for elections and how much is being spent makes everything transparent. As I say, even if there isn't actual corruption, it's the perception that is a problem.

I'll give you an example here. During the election in 2008 in Vancouver the developer involved with the Olympic Village decided to drop off campaign donations at city hall before the election. Now, that developer obviously was in a lot of trouble, and it was a major issue in the election. The only reason the public knew about that is because it was leaked to the media. That donation, coming at that time, was rather unseemly.

Again, as I say, there is a perception problem as well as an actual problem, and I think that what we have is it undermines people's, I guess, trust in the process and trust in politics. We certainly see a problem in local elections with low voter turnout. So we need to deal with the cynicism people have around elections, and other jurisdictions - Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba - all have very strict finance regulations.

Craigie: And strict, what, everything - disclosure, caps on amounts of donations, and so on?

Monckton: Yes, absolutely. You know, in Toronto a mayoral candidate can only take up to \$2,500 from one person or individual in terms of a corporation or union. There is very strict spending limits, as well, in Toronto, and there is many, many other jurisdictions that do the same.

Craigie: Well, we'll see whether the task force in this province recommends B.C. adopting similar rules.

Neil Monckton, thank you for outlining your concerns. I appreciate you joining us.

Monckton: Great, thanks very much, Gregor.

Business seeks return of voting rights

Times Colonist (Victoria)

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Page B04

By Bill Cleverley

The business community is putting on a push for the return of their municipal vote as a provincial committee looks at the matter.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business has been lobbying hard for the change.

Brian Bonney, B.C. director of provincial affairs for the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, last week urged his members to make submissions to the provincial Local Government Elections Task Force. The CFIB has already collected 5,000 signatures on a petition calling for the vote.

Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce executive director Bruce Carter says the change makes sense.

"It's very important those people who are providing the resources to municipal government to do their work have a vote in who's elected to manage those on their behalf," Carter said.

"It's probably even more important when you look at some municipalities, such as Victoria where 52 per cent of the property tax revenue comes from business and none of those people are allowed to vote," he added. "Production of that money is a very important thing to economics of the community and that needs to be recognized."

Owners of B.C. small businesses could vote in municipal elections up until 1993 when that provision was repealed by the province.

Saanich Mayor Frank Leonard, a former president of both the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce and Union of B.C. Municipalities, said he can comfortably argue both sides of the issue.

Leonard also exercised the business vote when he managed the family's downtown Victoria tire shop, but said it wasn't easy. "It was a very painful exercise. You had to go to city hall and get the forms; go to your lawyer and get the corporate seal on it; go back to city hall file them and then show up to vote with lots of identification. So it was quite a task," he said.

As a former president of the chamber, he understands how chamber members feel they're getting a raw deal by paying taxes with no say in how it's spent.

But the UBCM has opposed the corporate vote on the basis that people vote -- not corporations -- and a democracy is based on one person one vote, Leonard said.

"So I've been on both sides of this one," Leonard said, adding a return to the corporate vote is problematic.

"If you have a law partnership does every partner in a law office get a vote if he's a business. How many votes in an office building do you get? Does the owner of the building get a vote? Or do they

all get a vote? Or, if the owner lives in the municipality does he give his vote to his son?"

Carter said difficulties with process can be overcome.

Victoria Coun. Philippe Lucas, who this month opened a small business in the city with his wife, doesn't think businesses should be given the vote. "I understand the concerns around taxation without representation but I feel that corporations are different from individuals despite recent legal suggestions suggesting that they are equal," Lucas said.

He said businesses can, in effect, vote with their feet by moving elsewhere if they are unhappy and that gives them enough power over municipal decisions.

"When it comes to municipal affairs, I think residents of a city who have a broader scope of understanding than a pure profit motivation, should be the key stake holders," Lucas said.

The provincial task-force was created in October to review a number of issues related to local government elections including: Campaign finance; enforcement processes and outcomes; role of the chief electoral officer (B.C.) in local government elections; term of office; corporate vote; other matters such as eligibility of local government volunteers to be candidates.

The six-member task force, chaired by Minister of Community and Rural Development Bill Bennett and Union of B.C. Municipalities president Harry Nyce is to make recommendations for legislative change.

School trustees say no to any limit on their term of office
Vancouver Sun Community of Interest
By Janet Steffenhagen
12 Apr 2010

Suggestions that there should be limits on the number of times a person may be elected to a board of education have not found favour with the B.C. School Trustees' Association.

"The experience and commitment of many of our multiple-term trustees is a valuable asset to local boards that is also drawn upon by other boards and trustees," the association says in a brief to the local government elections task force.

"We support the notion that local citizens should have the right to select their trustee representatives with as few limitations as possible and this democratic choice should not be limited by experience of the incumbent."

A majority of trustees also favour a four-year election cycle, rather than three, but say it should remain the same as for municipal councillors and mayors. (The last election was in November 2008.)

The BCSTA also recommends that disclosure requirements be simplified for campaigns with low expenses. Trustees support limits on campaign contributions and expenditures but not if that resulted in extra costs, such as mandatory audited statements or complex reporting requirements. "If this were the 'price' of statutory limits, then the statutory limits would not be supported," the brief says.

The BCSTA also supports tax credits for individuals but not corporations, saying it might increase the community's stake in campaigns. Read the full brief [here](#).

Now, if only there was a simple way to get more people to the polls.

Yes: Business, property owners should get a vote
Times Colonist (Victoria)
Saturday, April 10, 2010

Page A15
By John Norris

Re: "Give the municipal vote back to businesses," April 8.

Brian Bonney hit the nail on the head. Small business does deserve a municipal vote. As Bonney points out, the system does not provide a voice to these important drivers of our economy.

Even if all the small business owners in Victoria were to vote for one slate of candidates they would still not nearly be able to influence in any significant way the outcome of an election. But, at least they would not be excluded.

I would go further and also grant a vote to non-resident property owners. In both these instances, the decisions of municipal governments can have significant effects on these owners but they do not have the somewhat minor satisfaction of at least a vote.

If leasing parking spots or storage lockers to gain a vote in municipal elections is something people might do, the legislation could close such loopholes. It is curious that the Liberal government, which professes to be on the side of small business, has not corrected this long-standing injustice after so many terms in office.

John Norris

Owner, Hillside Printing

Victoria

No: Corporations aren't citizens, should not vote
Times Colonist (Victoria)
Saturday, April 10, 2010
Page A15
By John R. Paterson

Re: "Give the municipal vote back to businesses," April 8.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business argues that small- and medium-sized businesses are overtaxed and under-represented and advocates re-instating the business vote that was repealed in 1993.

Our fundamental democratic principle is one citizen, one vote. The Charter of Rights and Freedoms establishes the right of citizens of Canada to vote in elections of members of the House of Commons and legislative assemblies. Corporations are not "citizens." There is no mention of the Boston Tea Party in the Charter.

The repeal of the business vote in 1993 was hardly a flippant act by then municipal affairs minister Robin Blencoe.

As stated in the Corporate Vote Discussion Paper, January 2010, prepared by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities: "The corporate vote was discontinued during the comprehensive review of local elections legislation in 1993."

In summary, the key reasons for discontinuing the corporate vote were:

- Desire to apply the "one person, one vote" principle.
- Eligibility criteria was complex and difficult to verify.
- Potential for abuse (in one case, about 500 people registered to vote in relation to one parcel of land).
- The effectiveness of the vote on addressing business concerns was arguably minimal.

The idea of a business vote has been tried in various forms in the past and has proven to be ineffective.

Most importantly, it simply does not fit with our democratic system.

John R. Paterson

Saanich

Many questions about business votes
Times Colonist (Victoria)
Saturday, April 10, 2010
Page A15
By Ian Cameron

Re: "Give the municipal vote back to businesses," April 8.

Brian Bonney says that business owners should have a vote in municipal elections, because business owners are taxed so heavily.

I understand the rationale, and I certainly understand the concern with commercial property tax rates, having been an owner of such property myself, but I don't agree with the proposed solution.

First, there is a confusion in the article with the term "businesses." "Businesses" or "business owners" don't pay property taxes: Commercial property owners do.

I assume the writer is not suggesting that if I rent a warehouse space to operate a business, I should get to vote in municipal elections. Or is he?

Secondly, how many votes does a commercial property get? If it's owned by six people, does it get six votes?

Thirdly, if amount of taxes paid is the criterion, do owners of more valuable properties get more votes?

Fourthly, if I live in the municipality and own four commercial properties, do I get five votes?

And fifthly (and I'll make it finally although I could go on) commercial property owners have lots of voices to speak on their behalf, from the Chamber of Commerce to trade groups (there are more than 20 listed in Victoria) to the Victoria Business Improvement Association. That should be enough.

Ian Cameron

President

Residents and Ratepayers of Central Saanich Society

For business, for every voter

Times Colonist (Victoria)

Friday, April 09, 2010

Page A10

By Editorial

Since they were elected in 2001, the B.C. Liberals have worked hard to improve the business environment in this province, cutting taxes, regulations and paperwork.

That has been good for everyone. When the government makes it easier for corporations or small businesses to thrive, British Columbia gains jobs.

With more money, we can accomplish more, both individually and collectively. As trite as it sounds, helping business pays dividends to all.

Despite that, the Liberals have had to fight the perception that they are governing on behalf of their business friends, especially those in Vancouver. They don't help their cause when the public learns of gifts to the party, such as the one from T. Richard Turner.

Turner is well-connected. He is the chairman of the Insurance Corp. of B.C. and a former chairman of B.C. Lottery Corp. He is also involved in several companies, including Paragon Canada Holdings Ltd., the Canadian arm of the corporation selected to build a \$450-million casino and hotel next to B.C. Place.

Turner gave \$50,000 to the Liberals to help with their re-election bid last year. A few weeks later, Paragon was told by PavCo, the Crown corporation that operates B.C. Place, that it had won the right to develop the hotel and casino.

Last fall, Turner contacted Kevin Krueger, the minister of tourism, culture and the arts, to stress that a retractable roof on the stadium, announced by Premier Gordon Campbell in 2008, was essential to the Paragon development. The government had been reconsidering the idea because cost estimates were higher than expected.

Shortly after Turner called Krueger, PavCo announced the roof would go ahead, at a cost of \$458 million.

Turner says these events were not connected, and that the donation to the Liberals was simply a show of support for the party.

It would be a stretch to believe that the government would commit to a half-billion-dollar project because of a donation of just \$50,000. As large as that donation was, it was not enough to make a difference to the election.

Still, NDP MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert, the tourism critic, says Turner's involvement with the government stinks. And he has a point -- the dealing has left room for the perception that Turner gained as a result of his ties to the Liberals.

Not only does the government need to act fairly, it needs to avoid getting into situations that would call its objectivity and honesty into question.

That can be a difficult assignment. Most of the people making the biggest donations to the Liberals are active in business, and most government decisions affect business. The potential for conflict -- or perceived conflict -- is part of daily life.

The Liberals have faced plenty of controversies in their nine years in power, but rarely have there been charges that business friends have scored direct gains because of their connections. One of the few complaints came a few years ago, when owners of pubs made hefty donations to the Liberals, and then were handed licences for private liquor stores.

We need a government that sees the business community as an ally rather than a foe, and the Liberals certainly qualify in that regard. Too often, they give the impression that they do not care about individuals.

The harmonized sales tax will be revenue-neutral, we're told, and businesses will save big. That means individuals will pay more in tax, and we will need to trust the economists who say prices will fall and more of us will get jobs as a result of the HST.

We are seeing all sorts of cuts to social programs, yet the government wants to spend \$458 million on a retractable roof for a stadium in Vancouver.

There are many reasons to question the decisions made by the Liberals without wasting time worrying about Turner's connections to the party in power.

The Liberals could deflect some of the criticism by showing that they care about individuals as much as they care about business.

Their inability to do that -- to show that they are in power to serve all British Columbians, not just the elite -- remains their greatest failure.

Commercial enterprises have no business voting
North Shore News
Fri Apr 9 2010
Page: 6
Section: Viewpoint
Byline: John Sharpe
Source: North Shore News

Dear Editor:

Should businesses and corporations be able to vote in municipal elections? They did until 1993 when the NDP abolished it, and they may get to vote in municipal elections again if the provincial government follows through on a proposal being pondered by the Local Government **Elections Task Force (Elections Task Force Faces A Big Job, March 28, North Shore News)**.

The argument from business to have this privilege returned is that they pay plenty of taxes and should therefore have a vote on election day. But choosing to set up your business on the North Shore shouldn't mean you can vote here. To allow businesses to vote would mean some people could cast two ballots.

One person, one vote is the only true democracy.

John Sharpe

North Vancouver

Now's the time to speak your mind (also printed in the TC and The Daily News on Apr 8th)
Okanagan Saturday
Sat Apr 3 2010
Page: A8
Section: Opinion
Byline: Bill Bennett
Column: Bill Bennett
Dateline: VICTORIA
Source: Special to Okanagan Saturday

If you've ever wanted to have a say in the way your local government representatives and school trustees are elected, this is your chance to speak your mind.

There are still a few weeks left for citizens, organizations and community groups to submit written feedback to the joint Local Government Elections Task Force.

I've had the privilege these last few months, to work with an incredible group of people representing both the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the province on the task force, including co-chair and UBCM president Harry Nyce.

We've been collecting feedback from individuals and organizations from all over B.C. about how to improve our current local government elections process and have received more than 250 submissions to date.

Though a lot of positive changes have been made in recent years to the Local Government Act to modernize elections, the task force has been looking at any remaining gaps in the process.

The issues we've been examining include campaign finance, enforcement processes and outcomes, the role of B.C.'s chief electoral officer in local government elections, the term of office, the corporate vote, and candidate eligibility of some local government employees.

We know how important it is to seek opinions from a diverse range of stakeholders, and we have invited input from local governments, citizens, community groups, the Leader of the Opposition and organizations such as the B.C. Chamber of Commerce, the B.C. Federation of Labour, B.C. School Trustees Association and B.C. Teachers Federation.

We are also getting technical advice from election experts, including the Local Government Management Association, Elections B.C. and academics.

As well, individual task-force members are receiving feedback throughout the normal course of their work in communities throughout B.C.

From the outset, the task force has made a concerted effort to be as transparent as possible.

That's why we took the unusual step of posting on our website discussion papers about the topics the task force is reviewing.

We wanted the public to be part of this process, to think through these complex issues with us.

We decided initially to keep the submissions confidential so people could feel free to express themselves without fear of having their comments made public.

However, as a result of constructive criticism about our process, we have reconsidered that decision.

We are posting submissions by local governments and organizations in their entirety to our website.

To protect people's privacy, we are posting only the substantive comments of individuals, without identifying them.

In order to hear from as many people as possible, we have asked for comments to be submitted in writing.

I encourage you again to check out our website and let us know what you think. The deadline is April 15.

Comments can be provided: Online at localelectiontaskforce.gov.bc.ca By e-mail to localelectiontaskforce@gov.bc.ca By fax to 250 387-7972 By mail to: Local Government Elections Task Force c/o Ministry of Community and Rural Development PO Box 9839 Stn Prov Govt.

Victoria B.C. V8W 9T1 Any changes that come out of the review will be made in time for approved legislative changes to be implemented for the 2011 local government elections.

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the province's news feeds using RSS, visit the province's website at gov.bc.ca.

Bill Bennett is the Minister of Community and Rural Development.

Give business back the municipal vote
Ladysmith Chronicle
Monday, April 05, 2010
Page 1
By Brian Bonney

Up until 1993, B.C. small businesses could vote in municipal elections. This ability to vote recognised the contribution small and medium sized businesses make to the economy and to our communities. The decision to rescind the business vote was an historic mistake that must be corrected.

Like the Boston Tea Party, it's an issue of taxation without representation. B.C.'s small businesses are being taxed to the breaking point by municipal governments. Businesses pay on average three and up to seven times more property tax than a resident on same value property.

In Ladysmith, a resident paid \$1,981 on an average residential property worth \$296,766 in 2008. A business owner paid \$6,902 - Almost 3.5 times more-on the same value property. To add insult to injury, businesses pay for their garbage collection on top of that.

Yet a January 2007 study by the City of Vancouver shows that businesses use only 24% of municipal services while residents use 76%. If residents were taxed like businesses, there would be a tax revolt.

Over-taxed and under-represented, small and medium sized businesses are the backbone of B.C.'s economy. They account for 98% of all businesses and 34% of our gross domestic product. 82% have fewer than five employees and together they employ 56% of B.C.'s private-sector workforce.

Many small business owners work over 60 hours a week. Many take very personal risks like mortgaging their homes or taking out loans against RRSPs in order to start, expand or keep staff employed in tough circumstances. In the recent recession, businesses with 1 - 19 employees only laid-off .5% of their staff compared to businesses with more than 500 employees that laid-off 8.8%.

The next time you drive by a soccer field or baseball diamond think about the small business that likely donated the children's uniforms. In many cases, the teams coach has more than likely been let off early by a Vancouver business owner to help teach our kids or is possibly a small business owner themselves.

Small business owners take tremendous personal risks that drive the economy and benefit society in general.

So how can we get municipal governments to recognize this vital contribution?

The answer lies in a well-established principle-no taxation without representation. If municipalities are going to tax small businesses to the hilt, fairness requires we grant business owners the vote.

Robin Blencoe repealed the business vote in 1993 claiming that it removes the possibility of people simply leasing parking spots and storage lockers to vote. Blencoe's flippancy was just one indication of how decision-makers overlook the concerns of small businesses.

In London, England, the birthplace of our democracy, businesses have a number of votes based on their number of employees. CFIB suggests every business would qualify for one vote only, whether they own, lease or rent their premises, just as residents qualify regardless of whether they own, lease or rent a home.

In B.C. the business right to vote in municipal elections was removed. This decision reflected widespread ignorance about small businesses owners - the risks they take, their importance to the economy, their contributions to society, their heavy tax burden and their lack of representation. Business owners deserve fair representation. The only thing that will start to grant them representation with their municipal tax masters is restoration of the municipal business vote.

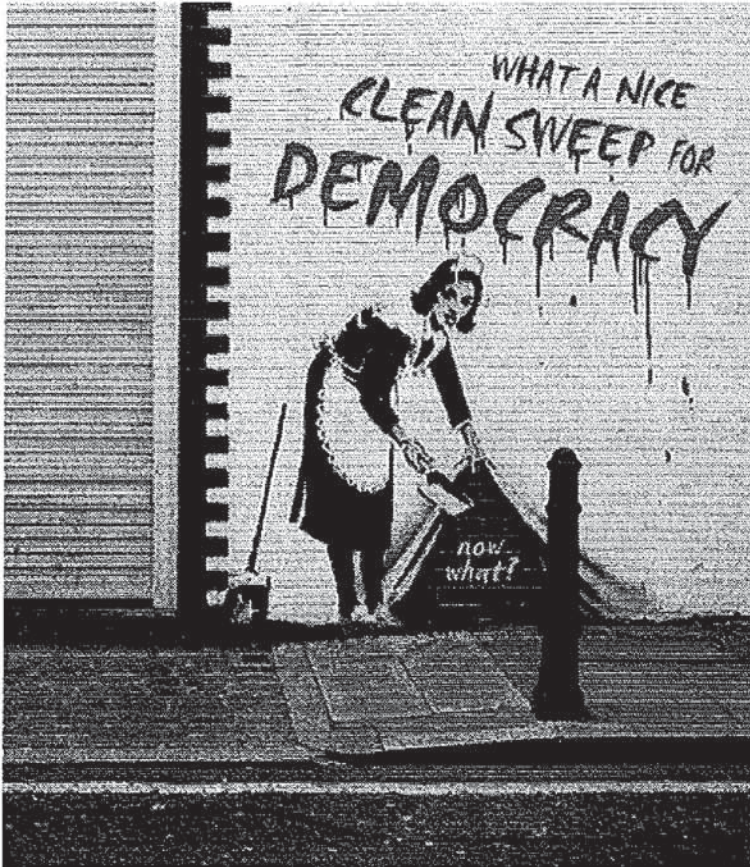
Brian Bonney is Director of Provincial Affairs, BC for Canadian Federation of Independent Business

**Premier Needs to Rescue Ailing Task Force
Vancouver Sun**

Saturday, April 03, 2010

Page

By Kennedy Stewart



The British Columbia Local Government Elections Task Force is slouching toward disaster. Community Development Minister Bill Bennett has badly bungled his responsibilities as task force head and most BC municipal politicians have shown they either do not care enough about local voters to participate in the process or are content to push their own pet demands at the expense of the public. The situation has become so desperate Premier Campbell will soon need to take over if he is to deliver on his promise to “improve fairness, accountability, transparency and public participation” in local government elections.

In 2009, Premier Gordon Campbell announced the 2011 round of BC local government elections will be conducted under a new *Local Government Elections Act* and supervised, administered and enforced by Elections British Columbia. Minister Bennett was appointed to head a task force formed to advise how these promises can be best be delivered and what local election laws should be changed. The core task force actions to date have been to issue discussion papers, hold in-camera meetings with government officials and collect written submissions from local governments, organizations and individuals. The submission cut-off date is April 15th with the task force reporting to the premier on May 30th. It is widely expected the premier will unveil his

new *Local Government Elections Act* at the September, 2010 Union of British Columbia Municipalities Annual General Meeting.

The first major problem with the task force concerns Minister Bennett who has clearly struggled with his duties. Bennett's task force looks like something out of the dark ages compared to the world renowned work of the BC Citizens Assembly. Consider the following missteps by the minister who:

- Declined to issue a press release until two months after the premier's initial announcement despite the need to consult widely in a short period of time.
- Declined to hold a single public meeting throughout the entire process despite the obvious impact local election law has on all British Columbians.
- Declined to consult with First Nations despite possible legislative change which could affect the composition of regional districts of which some First Nations are members.
- Declined to appoint an expert advisory committee despite the complexity of election law.
- Declined requests to access complete task force submissions despite freedom of information laws.
- Declined to wait until the end of the task force before making his recommendations, telling reporters in the middle of the consultation process he will not grant corporations the right to vote in local elections nor impose campaign donation and expense limits.

The second major problem for the premier concerns non-cooperation by BC local governments. Of BC's 160 municipal governments and 27 regional districts only 15 have bothered to submit to the task force: Kitimat, White Rock, Central Kootenay Regional District, Coquitlam, Vancouver, Campbell River, View Royal, Kent, Kamloops, Dawson Creek, Chetwynd, Hudson's Hope, Peace River Regional District, Midway and Trail. This low submission rate suggests no elected officials in the other 172 other municipalities think steps need to be taken to improve abysmal voter turnout rates, stop people living outside of Canada from contributing to local election campaigns, stop local politicians raising and spending thousands of dollars campaigning even in small municipalities, or stop unions and corporations donating millions of dollars to local candidates.

What few submissions have been made suggest most participating mayors and councillors are being extremely self-serving. Coquitlam council has asked for new laws excusing municipalities from holding by-elections. Municipal officials from Peace River want to deny the vote to anyone who is \$500 in debt where those in Dawson's Creek want the province to give corporations the same voting rights as local residents. Municipal councillors in Kamloops have asked donations to local campaigns be made tax deductible while still allowing donors to give as much as they want. Outrageously, most of these task force submissions were drafted by municipalities without a single public meeting.

In his October 2009 announcement the premier proudly proclaimed the Local Government Elections Task Force would lead the way in modernizing local government elections. Ministerial stumbling, public exclusion and self-serving local politicians suggest the task force will not meet this goal. The premier needs to make sure his new act addresses voters' real concerns whatever the task force recommends. Voters often do not mind flawed consultations processes if governments eventually do what they want. But there is nothing voters despise more than substandard consultations that fail to meet their expectations.

Follow me on www.kennedystewart.ca

North Shore Outlook, Page 8, 31-Mar-2010

Letters: April 1

One person, one vote

Editor:

Should businesses and corporations be able to vote in municipal elections?

Prior to 1993 they did before the NDP abolished it.

And they may get to vote in municipal elections again if the provincial government follows through on a proposal being pondered by the Local Government **Elections Task Force**.

The argument from business to have this privilege returned is that they pay plenty of taxes and should therefore have a vote on election day.

Choosing to set up your business in the District of North Vancouver shouldn't mean you can vote there.

This could mean some people would have two votes. Those opposed say One person, One vote is the only true democracy.

I say One person, One vote.

John Sharpe, North Vancouver

Panel to publish submissions on elections legislation

Vancouver Sun

Thursday, April 01, 2010

Page A13

By Randy Shore

The provincial government panel studying ways to overhaul how local elections are carried out has decided to publish the submissions it receives from the public after all.

The Local Government Elections Task Force this week reversed a decision to keep all the submissions secret and has begun publishing the 250 submissions it has received so far, though it will still withhold the names of the people who wrote them.

Municipalities and non-governmental organizations that have made submissions, including the B.C. School Trustees Association and the Canadian Labour Congress, are identified. All the submissions made up to Feb. 1 can be viewed on the panel's website (www.localelectiontaskforce.gov.bc.ca).

The panel, co-chaired by Minister of Community and Rural Development Bill Bennett and Union of B.C. Municipalities president Harry Nyce, was heavily criticized in The Vancouver Sun's three-part series on the project for not allowing the public access to the comments they will consider in recommending changes to the Local Government Act and the Vancouver Charter to the legislature. But in a statement this week Bennett wrote: "We decided initially to keep the submissions confidential so people could feel free to express themselves without fear of having their comments made public. However, as a result of constructive criticism about our process, we have reconsidered that decision."

Neil Monckton of the local civic advocacy group Think City found the news perplexing.

"I understand that under [Freedom of Information laws] the names will be available, so I don't really understand why they wouldn't publish the names," said Monckton. "It would be more useful to know who has written these submissions, particularly if they are public figures. You can't really judge these things unless you can attach a person to it and know what interests they represent."

Think City will submit the results of its own online poll on the issues to the panel. More than 4,000 people have responded to date.

"We are going to encourage all the people who took our survey to make written submissions as well," said Monckton.

Among the ideas being considered by the panel is the reintroduction of the corporate vote, which could allow each business within a municipality one vote. The panel is also considering new rules for campaign spending and disclosure of the sources of donations.

Irregularities in the 2008 municipal elections gave rise to several court challenges and criminal investigations. In Summerland, candidates were accused of receiving anonymous donations in violation of the Local Government Act. In West Vancouver, an unregistered third party purchased newspaper ads endorsing candidates.

In Central Saanich, citizens complained to police about unregistered organizations campaigning on behalf of local candidates, unfilled disclosure statements and other irregularities. The RCMP recommended 19 charges be laid, but the Crown declined. Similar allegations in Langley came to nothing.

Bennett's highest priority is creating a mechanism for enforcement of the rules.

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

Excerpts of the submissions received so far by the Local Government Elections Task Force. The deadline for submissions is April 15.

The democratic processes that we take for granted with more senior levels of government seem to be absent at the local level. The perception of corruption in government grows. The situation in West Vancouver and Summerland is particularly grave and the failure to prosecute individuals who are in violation of legislation fundamentally undermines the credibility of municipal councils and weakens local institutions.

Limit personal campaign contributions to \$100 and corporate or institutional donations to \$200. If the current president of the United States can raise all of his contributions from ordinary folks, primarily anyone can. Let's make the playing field level for all.

I am outraged that you would dare even suggest municipal voting rights for business and industrial property owners. It is completely unacceptable to contemplate disenfranchising the citizen. This right has been bought and paid for with the blood of the citizen and we will not surrender it.

The quiet majority has given up -with voter turnout of barely 20 per cent -and just don't participate any more. The solution, we believe, for real true municipal democracy is obvious (does not require more studies, more reviews, more committees, more consultants, etc.). Only qualified voters can select, support and elect municipal candidates (not business/developers, not special interest groups, not unions, etc.). If businesses/developers, special interest groups, unions, etc. want to contribute they can contribute to an all-candidate fund which would be distributed after the election on the basis of the proportion of votes received by each candidate.

Source: www.localelectiontaskforce.gov.bc.ca

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2010 6:45 PM
To: 'gmacisaac@ubcm.ca'; 'mcrawford@ubcm.ca'; Wall, Dale CD:EX; Furey, Mike CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
Subject: For review - drafts of possible LGETF recommendations

Hi everyone

Attached is a first draft of possible recommendations for the Task Force to consider on Monday/Tuesday of next week. Please forgive their roughness – they haven't been reviewed for completeness /accuracy or edited by anyone else yet. Deidre and Nicola will be looking at them tonight. But given the short time between now and the meetings, we thought we'd better get them out to you all at once right now.

These are the first group of potential recommendations. There are several subject areas for which separate stand-alone papers have been prepared (enforcement, education & advice, etc). There are no draft recommendations on those topics included in these documents.



PossibleRecommendations_Group1.. PossibleRecommendationWording_.

I'm sure it goes without saying, but we'll need comments back ASAP since we want to walk these in & hand them out on Monday.

Thanks!

Alayna

Pages 232 through 254 redacted for the following reasons:

s.13

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2010 11:39 AM
To: Wall, Dale CD:EX
Subject: Elections task force process document

Dale – Missed you before you left. Was just wondering if you could let me know (once you have had a chance to look at the document) whether you would like any of our briefing time with the Minister on Monday morning (re Elections Task Force meeting agenda for 19th and 20th) to be used to start the process discussion, or whether that is a discussion that you and the Minister will have separately first. We only have a ½ hour on Monday and need to talk about the meetings, so I am assuming the latter. However, I do need to get input from UBCM soon on the process (before discussions within government go too far), to ensure that their interests are reflected in the process that we go with. Thanks Nicola

P.S. As I know you are in transit, I have re-attached the document to this e-mail. Hope the Area Association goes well ☺



Process for
implementing repor

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Russo, Stephen CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 10:27 AM
To: Neufeld, Harry R EBC:EX; Western, Nola EBC:EX; Johnson, Linda M. EBC:EX
Cc: Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX; Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX
Subject: Draft of enforcement paper

Hello all,

Sincere apologies for sending the paper to you with limited time to respond. However, we will be able to incorporate your comments over the weekend, so we do not need them by the end of today. To facilitate this, could you please send comments to both Deidre and myself? Comments on any aspect of the paper would be much appreciated.

Thank you,

Stephen Russo
Research and Policy Analyst
Policy and Research Branch,
Local Government Department
(250)-387-4053



Draft_for_EBC_Ap
r_16.docx

Pages 257 through 263 redacted for the following reasons:

s.13

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 6:14 AM
To: Wall, Dale CD:EX
Subject: RE: Elections task force process document

I am totally o.k. with that –thanks. I'll catch up with you on Monday re his reaction (I'm thinking if he is generally on side with it, then I can start to have the conversation with Gary and Marie at some point on Monday or Tuesday).

Cheers

Nicola

From: Wall, Dale CD:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2010 8:31 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: RE: Elections task force process document

Your plan is a good one. I think we should put it before him to consider but not in your half hour. I have time with him before you on Monday. You ok if I raise it then. I may simply give him the last part of your paper that has the plan in it and ask him for feedback. s.13

s.13 Let me know if you are ok with that.

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2010 11:39 AM
To: Wall, Dale CD:EX
Subject: Elections task force process document

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<< File: Process for implementing report.docx >>

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: McGeachy, Denise CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 4:07 PM
To: Wilson, Deldre J CD:EX; Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Russo, Stephen CD:EX; Cox, Brad CD:EX; Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX; Zucconi, Lydia CD:EX; Rohrick, Jason CD:EX
Subject: Article: Think City Survey Result on Electoral Reform

http://www.thinkcity.ca/electoral_reform_survey

Campaign finance limits and electoral system choice were the top reforms British Columbians favoured. Well over 90 per cent of the 3,700 citizens showed support for initiatives to take big money out of local politics:

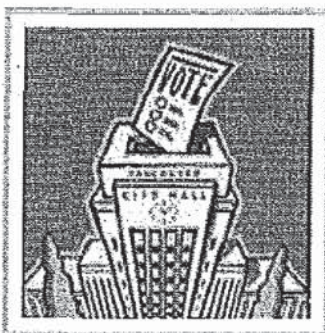
- 95.5 per cent of people said they supported campaign spending limits;
- 96.8 per cent said they wanted disclosure of donations given between campaign periods; and
- 93.3 per cent favoured limits on campaign contributions.

Denise McGeachy, MLIS

Research and Information Analyst
Policy and Research Branch
Local Government Department
Ministry of Community and Rural Development
800 Johnson Street, 6th Floor
Victoria, BC V8W 9T2
Phone: 250 387-4073
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Electoral Reform Survey

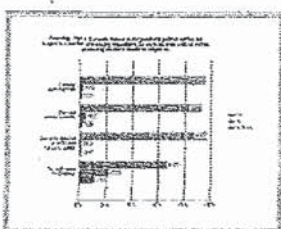
**Take Action:** Send task force action email**Read Up:** View task force survey submission

Many BC municipalities suffer from declining voter turnout, the taint of big money influence on elections, a lack of neighbourhood accountability, and a host of other democratic challenges.

In the 2008 civic elections, municipalities across the province were plagued by numerous cases of electoral violations, unethical conduct and maladministration. Some

of these cases resulted in police investigations, inquiries and legal challenges. Public confidence in the systems used to elect local governments in British Columbia was shaken.

In October 2009, Premier Gordon Campbell announced a new local government election task force to consider sweeping legislative changes to how municipal elections are conducted in this province.



In response, Think City, in co-operation with Fair Voting BC, surveyed 3,689 British Columbians between February 22 and April 12. Preliminary results were presented to Mayor Gregor Robertson and Vancouver city council on March 25 and forwarded to the Vancouver Parks Board on March 26. On April 15, final survey results were tabulated and presented to the local government elections task force as part of Think City's

submission.

Survey Results Highlights

Campaign finance limits and electoral system choice were the top reforms British Columbians favoured.

well over 90 per cent of the 3,700 citizens showed support for initiatives to take big money out of local politics:

- 95.5 per cent of people said they supported campaign spending limits;
- 96.8 per cent said they wanted disclosure of donations given between campaign periods; and
- 93.3 per cent favoured limits on campaign contributions.

Electoral Reform Survey Results





What do citizens want?—
Click here.



Is the federal government really going to pick up the affordable housing... <http://fb.me/vEMImW72>
2 hours ago

Nearly 3,700 British Columbians surveyed can't be wrong. Read why the majority support electoral choice, no... <http://fb.me/vBkboBL1>
6 hours ago

Walk sustainable UBC's community in which living, working and learning can flourish as part of Jane's Walk... <http://fb.me/wuXjMmr5>
6 hours ago



Join the conversation

As well, there was significant support (73.4 per cent) for giving municipalities the authority to adopt electoral systems that are most suited to local needs and preferences. These may include forms of constituency representation (wards), proportional representation, ranked ballots, and various mixed models.

Citizens were not in support of reforms such as extending the voter franchise. Think City tested public support for various options including: compulsory voting (51.7 per cent opposed), lowering the voting age to 16 (61.1 per cent opposed), allowing resident non-citizens to vote (59.4 per cent opposed), allowing commercial property owners to vote (80.1 per cent opposed), and allowing business owners to vote (76.7 per cent opposed). None of these ideas were supported in the survey.

For more detailed results from Think City's 2010 civic electoral reform survey, please see our submission to the Premier's local government elections task force [here](#).

Next Steps

The province's task force will submit its recommendations on modernizing local government election rules to the legislature on May 30, 2010 for implementation prior to the fall 2011 civic elections.

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Email: [hello \[at\] thinkcity.ca](mailto:hello[at]thinkcity.ca)

[Privacy Policy](#)

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 10:45 AM
To: 'gmacisaac@ubcm.ca'; 'mcrawford@ubcm.ca'; 'Lee-Ann Crane'
Cc: Rohrick, Jason CD:EX; Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: For review - draft short paper s.13

Importance: High

Hi everyone

s.13

This is

intended for discussion at the task force's meetings on Monday/Tuesday of next week.

Comments by the end of the day would be necessary for us to integrate them into the version giving to TF members on Monday. (Lee-Ann, if you cannot get to this today, perhaps we can convey any comments you have verbally when we present the paper to the TF). Apologies for the short notice on this.



s.13

Alayna van Leeuwen
Senior Policy Analyst
Local Government Policy and Research Branch
Ministry of Community and Rural Development, British Columbia

Phone: (250) 356-7020
Fax: (250) 387-6212
Email: Alayna.vanLeeuwen@gov.bc.ca

Pages 269 through 276 redacted for the following reasons:

s.13

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Wall, Dale CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 2:07 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: Re: Question

Thanks

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
To: Wall, Dale CD:EX
Cc: Sutherland, Don CD:EX; Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX; Dann, Michelle CD:EX
Sent: Fri Apr 16 12:33:27 2010
Subject: RE: Question

Dale:

Glad all went well. In answer to the questions (and please Don or Deidre jump in here if I haven't captured it):

- **Order of names:** LGA s. 106 creates the default of arranging the names alphabetically by surname (with rules for folks who have the same names). LGA lets local governments create an exception to that rule by passing a bylaw to permit the order of names on the ballot to be determined by lot (in which case the CEO sets a time and place, invites the candidates and essentially puts all the candidates names into a hat and draws them out to determine order on the ballot).
- **Oath of office:** CC s. 120 permits a council to establish the oath/solemn declaration of office by bylaw, and the oath may be different for positions of mayor and councillor. If no bylaw is adopted, the oath of office is the one prescribed by regulation. However, under LGA s. 210, it does not appear that that "by bylaw" choice also applies to regional districts – s.13
(Michelle, if it's not already on your list, could you please add it).

Cheers

Nicola

From: Wall, Dale CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 11:26 AM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: Re: Question

Presentation went fine. Question came up as to whether names needed to be alphabetized on ballot or if that was local choice. Same question came up on wording of oath of office. I should remember this but I do not. Will come up Monday.

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Brown, Graeme [Graeme.Brown@leg.bc.ca]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 2:13 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

Michael, the accounts have been set up.

Donna Barnett – s.15, s.17

Douglas Horne – s.15, s.17

Graeme

Graeme W. Brown
Director, Computer Systems
Legislative Assembly of British Columbia
(250) 356-1712
www.leg.bc.ca

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX [mailto:Michael.Marson@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 1:26 PM
To: Brown, Graeme
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Subject: FW: Sharepoint
Importance: High

Hello Graeme,

I understand from Sally Abbot from our Information Systems Branch that you are the BCeID business profile manager for LASS.

Two MLAs, Donna Barnett and Douglas Horne require BCeIDs in order to access the local government elections task force sharepoint site - I'm hoping you may be able to set those ids up for the MLAs quite quickly.

Please let me know if there is anything you need from me in order for this to happen - I'd be happy to provide you with whatever additional information you require.

We will need to add the ids to the sharepoint site so if you could let me know what they are that would be great.

Thank you very much.

regards,
Michael

Michael Marson
Manager, Advisory Services

Advisory Services Branch
Ministry of Community & Rural Development
Tel: (250) 356-0230
Fax: (250) 387-7972

From: Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 1:17 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX; Web CD\TCA:EX; Cheung, Ryan CD:EX; Asato, Ayano CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

Hi Michael,

No, Donna Barnett and Douglas Horne do not have access.

Yes, Graeme is "it". He is the business profile manager for LASS and he will need to set up the accounts. Once Donna and Douglas are set up and have "activated" their accounts, then we can add them (someone will need to relay their IDs to us).

Cheers, Sally

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 12:07 PM
To: Abbott, Sally CD:EX; Web CD\TCA:EX; Cheung, Ryan CD:EX; Asato, Ayano CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: FW: Sharepoint
Importance: High

Hi there..

Can you please confirm asap whether or not Donna Barnett and Douglas Horne have access to the sharepoint site?

They are provincial MLAs

If they don't can we set it up...or is Graeme the guy to do it?

Thanks
Michael

From: Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 12:21 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

You're welcome.

I forgot to mention (although I did mention in an earlier message) ... in case you need it, the business profile mgr for LASS is:

Graeme Brown
Graeme.brown@leg.bc.ca
250-356-1712

Cheers, Sally

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 10:14 AM
To: Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

Perfect..thanks Sally!
Michael

From: Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2010 1:02 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

Hi Michael,

I just added Barbara Steele (City of Surrey), so she's in.

The ones that are not activated:

- Harry Nyce (UBCM)
- Robert Hobson (Regional District of Central Okanagan) – he did not previously have an ID. He does now, but it's not activated
- Andrew Leyne (LASS) – unable to add .. need BCeID for LASS
- Ryan Shotton (LASS) – unable to add – need BCeID for LASS

Here's who now has access:

Members of cd_w_splgdelect_r are:

s.15, s.17

**Refresh my memory please: we DID say all these people, including the BCeIDs, are to have "read" access, is that correct?

Sally

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2010 11:34 AM
To: Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Subject: Sharepoint
Importance: High

Hi there!

Are you able to tell me who still has not been registered/activated their account for the sharepoint site?

MM

Michael Marson
Manager, Advisory Services
Advisory Services Branch
Ministry of Community & Rural Development
Tel: (250) 356-0230
Fax: (250) 387-7972

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 3:02 PM
To: Rolfe, Catherine CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: FW: Individual submission to Task Force (Vancouver)

Hi Catherine - when putting together a list of the April 15 names (you'll get there!), please ensure the following is included. Thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim DeLaHunt [mailto:jdlh@jdlh.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2010 11:56 PM
To: Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Cc: Jim DeLaHunt
Subject: Individual submission to Task Force (Vancouver)

My name is Jim DeLaHunt, I live in Vancouver, and I'd like to make a submission to the Local Government Election Task Force. Please publish this and all contributions. And, because I stand by what I say, I'd like you to publish my name also.

The #1 most important local government election issue is the choice of voting system. It is very disappointing that you did not include this in your scope. The choice of voting system -- preference votes versus block or individual votes, wards versus at large -- has a much larger influence on who gets elected than the details of contribution disclosure or rules enforcement. Every municipality's voters should have the discretion to choose their own preferred voting systems from a wide range of vetted options, to include preference voting and proportional representation systems. Larger, more complex municipalities like Vancouver, Surrey, and Victoria should have wider autonomy to design options which suit their needs. The provincial government should be removed as a roadblock to this autonomy -- the foot-dragging and obstruction by the province to Vancouver's years of requests for a change to their system is disgraceful -- and the choice should reside with voters by referendum rather than by with the conflicted interests of councillors.

Campaign contributions and campaign expenses should be disclosed continuously. It's a truck-sized loophole that contributions and expenses which are outside the designated campaign period are presently unreported (at least in Vancouver). And there should be a contribution and expense deadline a few days before the election which allows for voters to find out and react to information about who's donating what and spending what before they vote.

Disclosures should be made electronically, and should be published electronically. There are likely good economies of scale to having such electronic publication occur at one clearing-house, rather than having each municipality do it separately.

To the extent practical, disclosures should be published in machine-readable data form as well as in printable electronic document form. There is growing activity around open government data, in Vancouver, Nanaimo, and elsewhere. (See for example the Vancouver trash reminder service at <http://vantrash.ca/>, created by local programmers in a few weekends using city data.) Publish financial disclosure reports as data feeds, and private citizens will mash them up into comprehensible form.

I was appalled to discover the range of election irregularities which occurred across the province in 2008. Your Campaign Finance Disclosure Discussion Paper, p. 6, has a good list.

There needs to be an independent, fair, public body to investigate violations and hold candidates accountable. We should not rely only on private citizens to investigate and file complaints.

As you deliberate and make your recommendations, I would ask you to be clear about what problems you are trying to solve, list the options you considered, and justify your choices. The reason is to bolster the credibility of your work as serving the public good, and not being a vehicle for a back-room political fix. I'm afraid you got off to a bad start, what with only the government party contributing MLAs, your unwillingness to meet with the public, and your initial refusal to publish submissions. It wasn't very transparent. Your report is your chance to re-establish a confidence that your minds were open, your deliberations fair, and your choices wise.

I look forward to reading your report, and the minutes of your meetings, which in a gesture of transparency I expect to see posted on your web site.

Thank you for your efforts on these issues, and for providing the opportunity to contribute my opinions. Again, I wish for this submission to be published and for my name to be included.

--
--Jim DeLaHunt, jdlh@jdlh.com <http://blog.jdlh.com/> (<http://jdlh.com/>)
multilingual websites consultant

157-2906 West Broadway, Vancouver BC V6K 2G8, Canada
Canada mobile +1-604-376-8953

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 4:28 PM
To: Rohrick, Jason CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: FW: For review -s.13

Comments from LGMA

From: Lee-Ann Crane [mailto:lcrane@rdek.bc.ca]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 4:27 PM
To: Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX
Subject: RE: For review s.13

In addition to the comments submitted on the previous Candidate Eligibility paper (recopied below), the following are additional comments from the LGMA Elections Committee s.13

s.13

Lee-Ann Crane, Chair
LGMA Elections Committee



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Neufeld, Harry R EBC:EX
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 5:50 PM
To: Russo, Stephen CD:EX; Western, Nola EBC:EX; Johnson, Linda M. EBC:EX
Cc: Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX; Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX; Paget, Gary CD:EX
Subject: RE: Draft of enforcement paper
Attachments: Models_Campaign_Finance_Enforcement_EBC_edits.docx

Hi, Stephen.

Attached are Elections BC's consolidated edits and comments.

Cheers,
Harry Neufeld
Chief Electoral Officer
British Columbia

From: Russo, Stephen CD:EX
Sent: Fri 16/04/2010 10:26 AM
To: Neufeld, Harry R EBC:EX; Western, Nola EBC:EX; Johnson, Linda M. EBC:EX
Cc: Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX; Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX
Subject: Draft of enforcement paper

Hello all,

Sincere apologies for sending the paper to you with limited time to respond. However, we will be able to incorporate your comments over the weekend, so we do not need them by the end of today. To facilitate this, could you please send comments to both Deidre and myself? Comments on any aspect of the paper would be much appreciated.

Thank you,

Stephen Russo

Research and Policy Analyst

Policy and Research Branch,

Local Government Department

(250)-387-4053

<<Draft_for_EBC_Apr_16.docx>>

Pages 287 through 295 redacted for the following reasons:

s.13

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2010 10:27 AM
To: Wall, Dale CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX; Russo, Stephen CD:EX
Subject: Election Task Force paper s.13

Importance: High

Hi Dale,

s.13

This paper is one of the "walk-ins" (papers that we are distributing at the meeting Monday for discussion on Tuesday). Given the sensitivities on this one, we feel it is really important for you to review it! We will be briefing the Minister on this (and the other papers) on 9:30 am tomorrow.

Thanks, Deidre



s.13

Pages 297 through 304 redacted for the following reasons:

s.13

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Wall, Dale CD:EX
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2010 2:39 PM
To: Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX; Russo, Stephen CD:EX
Subject: RE: Election Task Force paper s.13

s.13

So -- I would suggest the paper is fine but that we deal verbally with the points above.

Hope this helps.

From: Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2010 10:27 AM
To: Wall, Dale CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX; Russo, Stephen CD:EX
Subject: Election Task Force paper s.13
Importance: High

Hi Dale,

s.13 This paper is one of the “walk-ins” (papers that we are distributing at the meeting Monday for discussion on Tuesday). Given the sensitivities on this one, we feel it is really important for you to review it! We will be briefing the Minister on this (and the other papers) on 9:30 am tomorrow.

Thanks, Deidre

s.13

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2010 8:49 AM
To: Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX; Cox, Brad CD:EX
Cc: Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX
Subject: s.13

Brad/Deidre: I took a look at the s.13 (version that you printed off for me, Deidre) and have just the few following suggestions. As I wasn't sure what version of the paper you were working on, I have put my suggestions in this e-mail:

s.13

That's all – thanks for the chance to review.

Cheers

Nicola

Pages 308 through 312 redacted for the following reasons:

s.13

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 7:00 AM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: RE: Task Force Report

Michael:

My apologies for the delay in replying. I really appreciate the information you have provided – will be hugely helpful to the discussion of roll out. That discussion is just getting underway (I expect Dale will broach some higher level aspects of it with the minister today) and once he has done that, then we can start talking to UBCM staff. That should help get us a clearer understanding of what folks want (however I suspect that with the timing and limited resources, people will be leaning to web publishing – at least that's what I hope).

Never heard of a Communications Project Approval form so thanks for telling me about it. Is that something that you can check with PAB or should I?

When we have a clearer idea if the Task Force is o.k. with the proposed shape of the paper (they are reviewing an outline on Tuesday), then we will be able to start to flesh out a few pages, which then should allow us to get the CIP information started

On the cover design, I'm thinking a cover design that is quite simple – maybe just the same image and colours as on the website, with the 2 logos on it? Any creative thoughts that you have on what a cover could look like (maybe even a mock up?) would be really appreciated.

Thanks, and I'll keep you posted on how their discussions go.

Nicola

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 8:20 AM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Sutherland, Don CD:EX
Subject: RE: Task Force Report

Thanks for the below...

Some thoughts...

If there is any suggestion of printing this document we'll need to have it produced in In-Design

- We'll need two days to convert it from Word to In-Design – and should start developing a template design/cover now
- PAB will have an approval role on how it looks – recognizing this is a joint report we should have some flexibility in look and feel.
 - o May need a Communications Project Approval Form to get the ball rolling.
- QP will need to have a print request to tender the job, at least 7-10 days to print it – and we'll need a budget and how many copies
- Question – do we need CIP data (if so...need to get that ball rolling with Library and Archives Canada asap)
- Need to create a distribution strategy (who/how many etc)

If we only intend to publish it on the web...

- We can use Word and should start developing a template design/cover now
- PAB will have an approval role on how it looks – recognizing this is a joint report we should have some flexibility in look and feel.
 - o May need a Communications Project Approval Form to get the ball rolling.
- Question – do we need CIP data (if so... need to get that ball rolling with Library and Archives Canada asap)
- Will need to create “home” for the report on LGD – or will it sit in the UBCM site like the RD task force report?

Let me know how I can help...

Michael

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 4:24 PM
To: Sutherland, Don CD:EX
Cc: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: RE: Task Force Report

Don: My apologies if I haven't kept you in the loop (this thing is moving and shifting so fast that I can't remember who I've been talking to and who I haven't).

Attached is a draft outline of the report. I'm pretty sure that you were sent an earlier version of this, but can't recall whether we chatted about this. UBCM is generally o.k. with this as a framework, and we will be discussing this as a general idea with the Task Force next week.

<< File: Outline.docx >>

Also attached is a document that I just put together and sent to Dale this morning. It is a very first cut at thinking about the process for delivering the report and then all the implementation afterward. The one thing in there that is most relevant from your perspective is that we are focusing on web site publishing (trying to avoid the need for a print run). The other thing that is relevant to you is the question of timing (we are assuming that publication on the web would be very shortly – possibly even the next day – after May 30. Am waiting to get feedback from Dale on this and then will be discussing with UBCM.

<< File: Process for implementing report.docx >>

It would be great if you could think of a couple of graphic ideas for the cover of an electronic report (and also one that would work printed, in case we need to go there). I suspect that we will be having a discussion about report process at the May 11 Task Force meeting, so having something that we could discuss with UBCM staff in the last week of April would be tremendous.

Thanks!

Nicola

From: Sutherland, Don CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 4:08 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Cc: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: Task Force Report

Hi Nicola,

I presume (always a dangerous thing) that the Ministry will be tasked with designing (and potentially printing) the Local Government Elections Task Force report. If so, we should meet fairly soon to think about the design and the table of contents.

If the report is intended to be a simple Word document then we probably don't need much discussion. If it is going to have a cover with colours, then there are more things to discuss.

As it will be a joint Ministry/UBCM report, we will probably have more flexibility about some of the design features. For example, we may not be limited to using blue and gold as the primary colors. We know the two logos, title and TF name must appear on the cover but that's about it at this point. We could potentially mock up a couple of graphic ideas for the TF to consider if you think that would be necessary.

As far as the table of contents is concerned, the report could include an introduction, the joint letter signed by the co-chairs presenting the report to (the Premier?), acknowledgements, recommendations, glossary and appendices.

I believe you are going to discuss the contents of the report next week with the TF. Do you want to wait until after that meeting to discuss this further?

Don Sutherland
Director
Advisory Services Branch
Ministry of Community and Rural Development
Phone: 250 387-4025 Fax: 250 387-7972
Website: <http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/>

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 7:05 AM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: FW: Elections Task Force -- change to text April 16

Michael: We're meeting with the Task Force this afternoon, so I just wanted to confirm that I'm o.k. to tell them that in the next few days the text will be "softened" (as discussed below). I couldn't remember if you and I had confirmed that you were good with the proposed changes (but mind you, I can't remember much these days!). Thanks Nicola

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 9, 2010 12:34 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX; Glickman, Marika PAB:EX; Brown, Tom G CD:EX; Sutherland, Don CD:EX
Subject: Elections Task Force -- change to text April 16

I've gone through the web site with the strategy that I think we've agreed on in mind (i.e. not cutting off feedback, but rather not actively encouraging it and letting the stated time (April 15) speak for itself). Based on that, I think that the only page that needs changing is the "Home" page. I have "track[ed] changes" my suggested changes to that page. You'll see there is one question, where your input would help.

I:\Loggov_dept_common\LGD_Shared\LGPRB\Projects\ElectionsTaskForce\StakeholderEngagement\Changes for Web Site Text April.docx

Let me know what you think.

s.13

Thanks!

Nicola

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2010 4:16 PM
To: Wall, Dale CD:EX
Subject: RE: LGETF

Should be able to use good chunks of that but it'll still need to be a customized presentation with additions that would reflect the framework of the paper (e.g. some background/context) and of course the recommendations themselves packaged in some way. Am adding it to the list of things that we need to give thought to (may be simplest to build it in parallel as we write the paper).

-----Original Message-----

From: Wall, Dale CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2010 4:02 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: FW: LGETF

Thoughts? With luck we can simply fine tune the Chapter Mtg presentation.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bennett, Bill CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2010 1:18 PM
To: MacLean, Ian CD:EX
Cc: Davis, Richard CD:EX; Wall, Dale CD:EX
Subject: LGETF

Spoke at caucus today. PGC wants me to bring our draft report here for discussion. We should start thinking about an hour presentation, incl Q and A. Perhaps an hour and a half.

B

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 2:40 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX; Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
Subject: FW: Local Government Elections Task Force - Comments
Attachments: Local Government Elections Task Force-Ltr-BJ (SCAN).pdf

FYI

s.22

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prohibited. Thank you.

Pages 319 through 326 redacted for the following reasons:

s.13

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Wall, Dale CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2010 4:02 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: FW: LGETF

Thoughts? With luck we can simply fine tune the Chapter Mtg presentation.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bennett, Bill CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2010 1:18 PM
To: MacLean, Ian CD:EX
Cc: Davis, Richard CD:EX; Wall, Dale CD:EX
Subject: LGETF

Spoke at caucus today. PGC wants me to bring our draft report here for discussion. We should start thinking about an hour presentation, incl Q and A. Perhaps an hour and a half.

B

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2010 3:31 PM
To: Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX
Cc: Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
Subject: RE: EndGame steps (P. Smith question)

Here are some thoughts:

- Submissions are continuing to come in
- As the Task Force moves towards developing its recommendations and considers the nature of its report, the Task Force is reflecting on the feedback it is receiving and continuing to consider the policy issues. This is an ongoing process.
- As you review the submissions on the site, if you feel that there are matters related to the topics under review that haven't been canvassed, you can certainly bring those to the attention of the Task Force in writing.

Cheers

Nicola

From: Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2010 5:12 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
Subject: FW: EndGame steps (P. Smith question)

How about something like this reply-wise? Not sure exactly how to handle it in terms of not wanting to fuel the news stories for the next month.

From: Patrick Smith [mailto:psmith.sfu@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2010 11:51 AM
To: Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX
Subject: EndGame steps

Hi Alayna:

Hope spring is being kind.

I have a query on the TF process between end of submissions (glad to see these are publically available = lots of useful work for a grad student or two) - and Report submission.

EG Will there be any outside discussions over next month plus? Might draft ideas be circulated for comment ? etc before final report

If we can provide any feedback, please let us know. We continue to share interest in the area of loc govt reform and the TF represents a real opportunity to move BC forward on democratic practice.

paddy

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2010 5:08 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

Okay ... thanks.

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2010 4:55 PM
To: Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

Thanks for the info Sally – I'll follow up with them next week

From: Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2010 2:52 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

Hi, Nicola,

The account have been set up, but the individuals need to 'activate' their accounts in order for us to add them to the SharePoint site (I tried this morning and am still not able to add them).

When Graeme set up the accounts, he will have advised the members on how to "activate" the accounts, however it appears they haven't done this, so yes, it does need to be drawn specifically to the members' attention. As they do have Graeme's information on how to do this, perhaps he is the best person to contact them? Or if you know the members, you could contact them directly? (Not sure what's most appropriate but you will, I'm sure!).

As for the process, just so you know ... Graeme will have given them a temporary password ... I believe what they need to do is log into the BCeID site with their temporary password, change their password, and accept the terms and conditions of use and then they are 'activated'. Don't quote me, but I think this is how it works.

Cheers, Sally

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2010 1:15 PM
To: Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Subject: FW: Sharepoint

Sally – Further to your voice-mail, this is the last e-mail that I have related to getting the access to Sharepoint for Donna Barnet and Douglas Horne. Perhaps you could tell me specifically what needs to be done next (keeping in mind that I am a non-techie). That would help re who needs to do something – i.e. it is something Graeme Brown can do; is it something that needs to be drawn specifically to the members' attention. Thanks Nicola

From: Brown, Graeme [mailto:Graeme.Brown@leg.bc.ca]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 2:13 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

Michael, the accounts have been set up.

Donna Barnet —s.15, s.17

Douglas Horne -

Graeme

Graeme W. Brown
Director, Computer Systems
Legislative Assembly of British Columbia
(250) 356-1712
www.leg.bc.ca

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX [mailto:Michael.Marson@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 1:26 PM
To: Brown, Graeme
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Subject: FW: Sharepoint
Importance: High

Hello Graeme,

I understand from Sally Abbot from our Information Systems Branch that you are the BCeID business profile manager for LASS.

Two MLAs, Donna Barnet and Douglas Horne require BCeIDs in order to access the local government elections task force sharepoint site - I'm hoping you may be able to set those ids up for the MLAs quite quickly.

Please let me know if there is anything you need from me in order for this to happen – I'd be happy to provide you with whatever additional information you require.

We will need to add the ids to the sharepoint site so if you could let me know what they are that would be great.

Thank you very much.

regards,
Michael

Michael Marson
Manager, Advisory Services
Advisory Services Branch
Ministry of Community & Rural Development

Tel: (250) 356-0230
Fax: (250) 387-7972

From: Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 1:17 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX; Web CD\TCA:EX; Cheung, Ryan CD:EX; Asato, Ayano CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

Hi Michael,.

No, Donna Barnett and Douglas Horne do not have access.

Yes, Graeme is "it". He is the business profile manager for LASS and he will need to set up the accounts. Once Donna and Douglas are set up and have "activated" their accounts, then we can add them (someone will need to relay their IDs to us).

Cheers, Sally

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 12:07 PM
To: Abbott, Sally CD:EX; Web CD\TCA:EX; Cheung, Ryan CD:EX; Asato, Ayano CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: FW: Sharepoint
Importance: High

Hi there..

Can you please confirm asap whether or not Donna Barnett and Douglas Horne have access to the sharepoint site?

They are provincial MLAs

If they don't can we set it up...or is Graeme the guy to do it?

Thanks
Michael

From: Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 12:21 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

You're welcome.

I forgot to mention (although I did mention in an earlier message) ... in case you need it, the business profile mgr for LASS is:

Graeme Brown
Graeme.brown@leg.bc.ca
250-356-1712

Cheers, Sally

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 10:14 AM
To: Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

Perfect..thanks Sally!
Michael

From: Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2010 1:02 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

Hi Michael,

I just added Barbara Steele (City of Surrey), so she's in.

The ones that are not activated:

- Harry Nyce (UBCM)
- Robert Hobson (Regional District of Central Okanagan) – he did not previously have an ID. He does now, but it's not activated
- Andrew Leyne (LASS) – unable to add .. need BCeID for LASS
- Ryan Shotton (LASS) – unable to add – need BCeID for LASS

Here's who now has access:

Members of cd_w_splgdelect_r are:

s.15, s.17

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2010 12:24 PM
To: Wall, Dale CD:EX
Cc: Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX; Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX
Subject: ETF -- caucus briefing

s.13

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Wall, Dale CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2010 8:47 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: RE: ETF -- caucus briefing

He wants to go early with what we have -- like what UBCM did. Ian has a tentative date of May 4. Will confirm tomorrow.

Dale

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2010 12:24 PM
To: Wall, Dale CD:EX
Cc: Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX; Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX
Subject: ETF -- caucus briefing

s.13

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Jones, Krista SSBC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2010 8:02 AM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Cc: Brouwer, Shauna CD:EX; Valentine, Lee CD:EX; Pearson, Barbera CD:EX
Subject: New FOI Request - Call for Records - MCD-2010-00024

TRIM Dataset: GN
TRIM Record Number: D13557810A
TRIM Record URI: 2042304

Good Morning,

Please find attached request for records made under the **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**. Please complete the Call for Records form and return to me. Also attached is a Fee Estimate standards form which will be helpful should you feel this request will generate / necessitate a fee. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.



MCD024Call for Fee Estimate
Records Standar...standards 2009 No.

Thank you
Krista Jones
Junior Analyst
Information Access Operations
Operations
Shared Services BC
Ministry of Citizens' Services
☎ (250)953-3622
✉ Krista.Jones@gov.bc.ca

Providing Services to:
Ministry of Citizens' Services
Ministry of Community & Rural Development
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Small Business, Technology & Economic Development
Ministry of Tourism, Culture & the Arts

Information Access Operations

Call for Records Standards

Section 7 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act) places a duty on public bodies to respond to formal requests without delay and imposes a time limit of 30 working days from the date the FOI request is received by the public bodies. The purpose of this form is to assist Ministries and agencies with the record gathering process. Staff are encouraged to contact Information Access Operations with concerns or questions.

IAO is responsible to complete the following:	
FOI Request File Number: X Govt Number (if applicable)	MCD-2010-00024
Requester Type:	Interest Group
Description of Request:	<p>-Dates of all meetings held which involve any member of the Local Government Elections Task Force and which relate in any direct way to the task force's activities;</p> <p>-Copies of minutes of any such meeting and names of those in attendance at any such meeting (including attendees not on the task force)</p>
Request Received Date:	April 23, 2010
Request Due Date:	June 7, 2010
IAO Analyst/Team: Contact Information:	<p>☎ (250)953-3622</p> <p>✉ Krista.Jones@gov.bc.ca</p>
IAO Comments:	
The Ministry is responsible to complete the following:	
Ministry Search for Records: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please describe your search for records including what records were searched (i.e. Files, email, databases, TRIM files, off-site records, etc) • please indicate duration of search time • please indicate who conducted the search for records 	
Ministry Program Area Recommendations – Document potential harms ¹ that could result from disclosure of records gathered and provide disclosure recommendations.	
Ministry Program Area - Issues ² associated with disclosure of records gathered.	

¹ **Harms** – Disclosure of the records would significantly harm the Ministry's position on a given topic. The harms assessment allows FOI staff to better understand the context of the records and make informed severing recommendations based on potential harms.

² **Issues** – Issues associated with the possible disclosure of records through the FOI process should be communicated to your ministry executive and/or Public Affairs Bureau.

Ministry Record Location(s) – If you are aware of any other Ministry, agency, offices or locations that may have records responsive to this request, please indicate here.		
<i>Note: The Ministry/Program area is responsible to notify Ministry PAB/Executive of any issues or concerns.</i>		
Ministry Director/Manager:	Position:	Date:

Records are to be forwarded to IAO office within the following timelines:

General Request: 8-12 days	Personal Request: 4-10 Days	Cross Govt Request: 10-20 Days
Call for Record Date: April 27, 201		Records due to IAO by 4:00pm on May 13, 2010
Fee Estimate Due Date: May 3, 2010		

Ministry Support Guidelines for GENERAL FOI Requests

Preliminary Record Search and Assessment of Fees:

- If records do not exist within Ministry/Agency, **please advise IAO immediately.** Request will be closed or redirected by IAO.
- If some/all records reside within another public body, **please advise IAO immediately** specifying other public body, ministry, branch and/or region.
- If search and retrieval time is anticipated to exceed 3 hours and/or the volume of records exceeds 200 pages, **please advise IAO immediately.**
 - Advise of search time/record volume and estimate fees using attached fee calculation table.
 - If fee is estimated, do not proceed with records search or retrieval until IAO confirms fee with applicant.
 - Once fee has been confirmed with applicant and payment is received by IAO the following steps occur:
 1. IAO notifies the ministry.
 2. Ministry/Agency proceeds to retrieve and scan/photocopy responsive records.
 3. IAO provides ministry with the revised due date for record submission.
 4. Ministry submits records to IAO.

Record Gathering Process:

- Review records to ensure they address scope of the request.
- To ensure IAO has a complete understanding of the records provided and their context, IAO requests that the ministry identify any areas of concern regarding their disclosure. This assists IAO analysts in assessing any harm contemplated by the FOIPPA, and consider any applicable exceptions to disclosure.

- Please ensure your Ministry Public Affairs office is notified of any issues associated with the request for internal communication business purposes (e.g. development of issue notes to be included in final sign off package for Ministry executive).

Providing Responsive Records:

If volume permits, Ministry/Agency is required to scan records and send electronically to IAO analyst. If volume is prohibitive for electronic submission, package or disc with scanned documents should be mailed to:

Information Access Operations
Ministry of Citizens Services
PO Box 9569 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC, V8W 9K1

- **Records are to be received by IAO no later than May 13, 2010.**
- Please ensure information package has been reviewed and approved by applicable program area.

Information Access Operations

Fee Estimate Calculation Standards

The following instructions are being provided to Ministries to ensure consistent government practice when estimating fees for FOI requests.

Once the ministry estimate is complete, please advise FOI Analyst before gathering records. FOI will communicate the fee estimate to the applicant. Once fee estimate has been confirmed with the applicant and payment received as required under the Act, FOI will advise the ministry program area to proceed with retrieval, preparation and copying of records for submission to FOI.

Ministry:	
Ministry Program Area: (Please indicate location/region)	
Estimate Completed By:	
Date:	
FOI Analyst:	

Please estimate costs associated with the following tasks and submit the estimate to IAO.

1. Locate & Retrieve Records			
Task	Effort in Hours	Cost Estimate (Effort hours – 3 hrs) x \$30/hr	Actual Costs (Effort hours – 3 hrs) x \$30/hr
• Consult with staff regarding content of specific boxes or files			
• Removing paper files from cabinets and/or files			
• Read through contents of files to determine whether records are responsive to request			
• Search email records, databases, TRIM folders, etc & if necessary print responsive records (estimate time for all applicable staff involved in task)			
• Review files lists & off-site lists			
• Recall boxes from off-site			
• Other tasks involved in locating & retrieving records			

Information Access Operations - Fee Estimate Calculation Standards

Note: First 3 hours of search time are not recoverable.			
Estimate & actual costs are not to include costs of retrieving/returning boxes from/to off-site storage.			
2. Produce Records			
Task	Effort in Hours	Cost Estimate <i>Estimate x \$30/hr</i>	Actual Costs <i>Estimate x \$30/hr</i>
• Prepare records for photocopying (remove staples, etc)			
3. Preparing Records for Disclosure			
Task	Effort in Hours	Cost Estimate	Actual Costs
• Package preparation includes time required to assemble & prepare records for submission to IAO			
4. Copy Costs			
• Photocopying	Cost Estimate (Letter size = # of pages x \$.25/page) (Legal size = # of pages x \$.30/page)	Actual Costs (Letter size = # of pages x \$.25/page) (Legal size = # of pages x \$.30/page)	
• Calculate copy costs	Letter: Legal: Total:	Letter: Legal: Total:	
5. Miscellaneous Costs			
• Calculate miscellaneous costs (i.e. CD's, reproducing large documents, etc)	Cost Estimate	Actual Costs	
6. Total Fee to Applicant			
Task	Cost Estimate	Actual Costs	
• Locate & Retrieve			
• Produce Records			
• Prepare Records			
• Copy Costs			
• Miscellaneous costs			
• Shipping Costs			
	TOTAL:	TOTAL:	

General Calculation Information:

- Average file folder = 1" & holds approximately 200 pages (single-sided)
- 1 Standard Records Centre Services Box (1 cubic foot):
 - if in legal sized folders - 1,800 pages
 - if in letter sized folders - 2,200 pages

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Van den Brink, Grace CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2010 2:53 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Brown, Tom G CD:EX; Sutherland, Don CD:EX; Marson, Michael CD:EX; Glickman, Marika PAB:EX; Van Leeuwen, Alayna CD:EX
Subject: FW: Submissions

FYI: response to Think City.

-----Original Message-----

From: Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2010 2:51 PM
To: 'Think City'
Subject: RE: Submissions

The Task Force has been seeking comments in writing on the topics being reviewed, preferably by April 15, 2010. Submissions continue to be received and will continue to be posted.

-----Original Message-----

From: Think City [mailto:hello@thinkcity.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2010 9:41 AM
To: Local Elections Task Force CD:EX
Subject: Submissions

Hello,

When are the balance of public submissions up to April 15 going to be posted to your site?

Thanks,
Neil Monckton,
Think City Chair

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2010 12:23 PM
To: Neufeld, Harry R EBC:EX
Cc: Wall, Dale CD:EX; Russo, Stephen CD:EX; Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX; Johnson, Linda M. EBC:EX; 'Gary MacIsaac'
Subject: RE: Meeting re Elections Task Force -- May 5

Harry: Thanks for your prompt response. We'll be meeting in room 631 (which is the Executive Boardroom – left immediately off the elevator and then right into the Executive offices). Look forward to seeing you and Linda. Cheers
Nicola

From: Neufeld, Harry R EBC:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2010 12:18 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Cc: Wall, Dale CD:EX; Russo, Stephen CD:EX; Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX; Johnson, Linda M. EBC:EX
Subject: RE: Meeting re Elections Task Force -- May 5

Hi, Nicola.

Next Wednesday, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm works in terms of availability at this end.

Linda Johnson and I will be the only personnel from Elections BC coming over to your offices that morning. (Nola is away until the end of next week, so will not be available to join us.)

Appreciate if you could advise as to which room we should be headed once you have finalized the arrangements.

Cheers,

Harry Neufeld
Chief Electoral Officer
British Columbia

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: April-28-10 10:50 AM
To: Neufeld, Harry R EBC:EX
Cc: Wall, Dale CD:EX; Russo, Stephen CD:EX; Wilson, Deidre J CD:EX
Subject: Meeting re Elections Task Force -- May 5
Importance: High

Harry:

Further to your discussions with Dale, I understand that you were holding time on Wednesday May 5 for a follow up meeting with Ministry and UBCM staff.

The meeting will be **Wednesday, May 5, 10:30-12:30**, here at 800 Johnson Street (room to be confirmed). Gary MacIsaac from UBCM has confirmed his availability for that time.

If you could advise that the time works for you, that would be much appreciated. Also, please let us know who will be accompanying you (so that we can find a suitable room).

Thanks

Nicola

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Chalmers, Jennifer CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2010 2:06 PM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: FW: ETF slides

Please see below.

Thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: MacLean, Ian CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2010 2:05 PM
To: Davis, Richard CD:EX; Chalmers, Jennifer CD:EX
Subject: ETF slides

I'm good with these. Please ensure that only the slides are on the disc to shown at SILGa

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Zucconi, Lydia CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2010 2:19 PM
To: 'Gary MacIsaac'
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: Elections Task Force presentation for AA meetings

Hi Gary,

Please find attached the slides for the Elections Task Force presentation for the AA meetings. The Minister has not yet had the opportunity to review the speaking notes, so I am sending you two copies of the presentation: the first one has the speaking notes, which we think that the Minister will use, and the second copy is the presentation itself without the speaking notes.



AApresentation_FIAApresentation_FI
NAL-UBCM_upda..NAL-UBCM_upda..

Cheers,

Lydia Zucconi
Policy Analyst
Local Government Policy and Research Branch
Ministry of Community and Rural Development
Phone: 250.356.9003 Fax: 250.387.6212
Email: Lydia.Zucconi@gov.bc.ca

Pages 346 through 382 redacted for the following reasons:

s.13

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 8:00 AM
To: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: FW: PS -- Ayano and Ryan, FYI: Adding members of the legislative assembly to the LG Task Force SharePoint site

Hi there..

Looks like we're in a holding pattern until the MLAs activate their accounts....

Michael

From: Web CD\TCA:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2010 2:42 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Cc: Web CD\TCA:EX
Subject: RE: PS -- Ayano and Ryan, FYI: Adding members of the legislative assembly to the LG Task Force SharePoint site

Hi Michael,

No, apparently not yet. I just tried again to add them to the site ... no luck. The accounts exist but if they're not activated we can't add them.

FYI I did touch base with Nicola about this while you were away to see if there was anything to be done (as I knew this was a bit of a priority) ... I gave her some information on how to proceed, so you might want to touch base with her first to see where things stand.



RE: Sharepoint

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2010 1:20 PM
To: Web CD\TCA:EX
Subject: RE: PS -- Ayano and Ryan, FYI: Adding members of the legislative assembly to the LG Task Force SharePoint site

Hi...

Can you please let me know if the accounts have been activated...

Thanks

Michael

From: Web CD\TCA:EX
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2010 8:38 AM

To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Cc: Web CD\TCA:EX
Subject: RE: PS -- Ayano and Ryan, FYI: Adding members of the legislative assembly to the LG Task Force SharePoint site

Michael,

These accounts still do not appear to be activated. Can you follow up?

S

From: Web CD\TCA:EX
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 2:50 PM
To: Web CD\TCA:EX
Cc: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: FW: PS -- Ayano and Ryan, FYI: Adding members of the legislative assembly to the LG Task Force SharePoint site

I'd suggest trying to add them from time to time on Monday.

Michael, if the accounts don't get activated (i.e. if we can't add them to the site), are you able to follow up with the individuals involved and ask them to activate their accounts?

S

From: Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 2:43 PM
To: Web CD\TCA:EX
Cc: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: Ayano and Ryan, FYI: Adding members of the legislative assembly to the LG Task Force SharePoint site

Hi ... if these accounts don't get activated until Monday, I won't be here to add them to the site, so here's what needs to be done:

On the SharePoint site <https://sharepoint.cdtca.gov.bc.ca/cd/lgd/lgetf/default.aspx> ... in the SharePoint group **LGETF Read** ... add these two accounts when they are activated (they are both Business BCeIDs and the business group is British Columbia Legislative Assembly, if you need to look them up):

Donna Barnet —s.15, s.17

Douglas Horne

Sally

From: Brown, Graeme [mailto:Graeme.Brown@leg.bc.ca]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 2:26 PM
To: Abbott, Sally CD:EX; Marson, Michael CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

I have emailed the details of the accounts to the members with instructions on activating them. I believe you can add the accounts to your site, the member just won't be able to access it until they activate their account.

Graeme

Graeme W. Brown
Director, Computer Systems
Legislative Assembly of British Columbia
(250) 356-1712
www.leg.bc.ca

From: Abbott, Sally CD:EX [mailto:Sally.Abbott@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 2:21 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX; Brown, Graeme
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

Graeme,

I believe we need to wait until the accounts are activated before adding them to our site, is that correct?

Sally

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 2:19 PM
To: Brown, Graeme W LASS:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

Graeme,
Thank you very much for taking care of that so quickly – much appreciated.

Have a nice weekend...

Michael

From: Brown, Graeme [mailto:Graeme.Brown@leg.bc.ca]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 2:13 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

Michael, the accounts have been set up.

Donna Barnett – s.15, s.17

Douglas Horne –s.15, s.17

Graeme

Graeme W. Brown

Director, Computer Systems
Legislative Assembly of British Columbia
(250) 356-1712
www.leg.bc.ca

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX [mailto:Michael.Marson@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 1:26 PM
To: Brown, Graeme
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Subject: FW: Sharepoint
Importance: High

Hello Graeme,

I understand from Sally Abbot from our Information Systems Branch that you are the BCeID business profile manager for LASS.

Two MLAs, Donna Barnett and Douglas Horne require BCeIDs in order to access the local government elections task force sharepoint site - I'm hoping you may be able to set those ids up for the MLAs quite quickly.

Please let me know if there is anything you need from me in order for this to happen – I'd be happy to provide you with whatever additional information you require.

We will need to add the ids to the sharepoint site so if you could let me know what they are that would be great.

Thank you very much.

regards,
Michael

Michael Marson
Manager, Advisory Services
Advisory Services Branch
Ministry of Community & Rural Development
Tel: (250) 356-0230
Fax: (250) 387-7972

From: Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 1:17 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX; Web CD\TCA:EX; Cheung, Ryan CD:EX; Asato, Ayano CD:EX

Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

Hi Michael,

No, Donna Barnett and Douglas Horne do not have access.

Yes, Graeme is "it". He is the business profile manager for LASS and he will need to set up the accounts. Once Donna and Douglas are set up and have "activated" their accounts, then we can add them (someone will need to relay their IDs to us).

Cheers, Sally

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 12:07 PM
To: Abbott, Sally CD:EX; Web CD\TCA:EX; Cheung, Ryan CD:EX; Asato, Ayano CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Subject: FW: Sharepoint
Importance: High

Hi there..

Can you please confirm asap whether or not Donna Barnett and Douglas Horne have access to the sharepoint site?

They are provincial MLAs

If they don't can we set it up...or is Graeme the guy to do it?

Thanks
Michael

From: Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 12:21 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

You're welcome.

I forgot to mention (although I did mention in an earlier message) ... in case you need it, the business profile mgr for LASS is:

Graeme Brown
Graeme.brown@leg.bc.ca
250-356-1712

Cheers, Sally

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 10:14 AM

To: Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

Perfect...thanks Sally!
Michael

From: Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2010 1:02 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

Hi Michael,

I just added Barbara Steele (City of Surrey), so she's in.

The ones that are not activated:

- Harry Nyce (UBCM)
- Robert Hobson (Regional District of Central Okanagan) -- he did not previously have an ID. He does now, but it's not activated
- Andrew Leyne (LASS) -- unable to add .. need BCeID for LASS
- Ryan Shotton (LASS) -- unable to add -- need BCeID for LASS

Here's who now has access:

Members of cd_w_splgdelect_r are:

s.15, s.17

**Refresh my memory please: we DID say all these people, including the BCeIDs, are to have "read" access, is that correct?

Sally

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2010 11:34 AM
To: Abbott, Sally CD:EX

Subject: Sharepoint
Importance: High

Hi there!

Are you able to tell me who still has not been registered/activated their account for the sharepoint site?

MM

Michael Marson
Manager, Advisory Services
Advisory Services Branch
Ministry of Community & Rural Development
Tel: (250) 356-0230
Fax: (250) 387-7972

Marotz, Nicola CD:EX

From: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 1:10 PM
To: Barnett.MLA, Donna LASS:EX; Horne.MLA, Douglas LASS:EX
Cc: Brown, Graeme W LASS:EX
Subject: Accessing Elections Task Force Sharepoint site

Just following up regarding your ability to access the Elections Task Force SharePoint site (so that you can view all the submissions in full). As noted below, accounts have been set up for you, but they first need to be "activated" by you (i.e. use the temporary password that Graeme provided you and then follow the instructions). If you have any questions about your temporary password or what steps to take, contact Graeme Brown. Hope that this information is of assistance to you. Cheers Nicola

From: Brown, Graeme [mailto:Graeme.Brown@leg.bc.ca]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 2:13 PM
To: Marson, Michael CD:EX
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Subject: RE: Sharepoint

Michael, the accounts have been set up.

Donna Barnett - s.15, s.17

Douglas Horne -

Graeme

Graeme W. Brown
Director, Computer Systems
Legislative Assembly of British Columbia
(250) 356-1712
www.leg.bc.ca

From: Marson, Michael CD:EX [mailto:Michael.Marson@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 1:26 PM
To: Brown, Graeme
Cc: Marotz, Nicola CD:EX; Abbott, Sally CD:EX
Subject: FW: Sharepoint
Importance: High

Hello Graeme,
I understand from Sally Abbot from our Information Systems Branch that you are the BCeID business profile manager for LASS.

Two MLAs, Donna Barnett and Douglas Horne require BCeIDs in order to access the local government elections task force sharepoint site - I'm hoping you may be able to set those ids up for the MLAs quite quickly.

Please let me know if there is anything you need from me in order for this to happen – I'd be happy to provide you with whatever additional information you require.

We will need to add the ids to the sharepoint site so if you could let me know what they are that would be great.

Thank you very much.

regards,
Michael

Michael Marson
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