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To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
CC: ["City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"](#)
Date: 3/3/2021 4:47:24 PM
Subject: Update on new Provincial legislation for local election campaign financing rules

Dear Mayor and Council,

Earlier today, the province announced their intention to introduce new legislation that when passed will strengthen local election campaign financing rules and will more closely align the Local Elections Campaign Financing Act rules with those established for provincial elections in the Election Act, while continuing to account for the unique nature of local elections.

These changes include:

- establishing a pre-campaign period that increases the length of time election advertising is regulated from 29 days to 89 days;
- limiting sponsorship contributions to \$1,200 to match the provincial campaign contribution limit set in 2017;
- requiring elector organizations to register with Elections BC; and
- providing Elections BC with new investigative tools to support investigations and additional penalties to fine people who do not comply with the new campaign financing rules.

Elector organizations, also known as civic or local political parties, will be required to register with Elections BC and complete annual financial reports just like provincial political parties. Elector organizations will be banned from accepting non-campaign contributions to pay for operational expenses, such as office supplies and staff salaries, in non-election years. This means they will have to fund all expenses through campaign contributions.

Changes will apply to all local elections starting with the 2022 general local elections and any byelections that follow, including elections for councillors, mayors, electoral area directors and school trustees. Any byelections already underway or scheduled before 2022 are not affected.

However, the new rules relating to sponsorship contribution limits will be made retroactively, effective from March 4, 2021, to prevent banned sponsorship contributions from being made between the time legislation is introduced and royal assent.

A link to the full press release, which includes a detailed backgrounder can be found here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021MUNI0018-000381>

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməŋəm (Musqueam), lə́wú 7mesh (Squamish), and səliwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.