

File No. 04-1000-20-2016-191

June 21, 2016

s.22(1)

Dear s.22(1)

Re: Request for Access to Records under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the "Act")

I am responding to your request of June 2, 2016 for:

In regards to the motion adopted at Regular Council on May 3, 2016 "2017 Provincial Ballot Question on Municipal Campaign Finance Reform", correspondence and other records sent from the City of Vancouver to the Province of British Columbia, and all responses from the Province to the City related to this motion.

All responsive records are attached.

Under section 52 of the Act you may ask the Information & Privacy Commissioner to review any matter related to the City's response to your request. The Act allows you 30 business days from the date you receive this notice to request a review by writing to: Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner, info@oipc.bc.ca or by phoning 250-387-5629.

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's office with: 1) the request number assigned to your request (#04-1000-20-2016-191); 2) a copy of this letter; 3) a copy of your original request for information sent to the City of Vancouver; and 4) detailed reasons or grounds on which you are seeking the review.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Freedom of Information Office at foi@vancouver.ca if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Van Fraassen', with a stylized, flowing script.

Barbara J. Van Fraassen, BA
Director, Access to Information
City Clerk's Department, City of Vancouver
Email: Barbara.vanfraassen@vancouver.ca
Telephone: 604.873.7999

Encl.
:cf

May 5, 2016

The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier of British Columbia
West Annex
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Keith Archer
Chief Electoral Officer
Elections BC
PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V7W 9J6

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Room 310
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Anton Boegman
Deputy Chief Electoral Officer
Elections BC
PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V7W 9J6

Dear Premier Clark, Minister Fassbender, Mr. Archer, and Mr. Boegman:

RE: 2017 Provincial Ballot Question on Municipal Campaign Finance Reform

On May 3, 2016, Vancouver City Council approved the following:

WHEREAS:

1. The Provincial Government currently holds the legislative authority for regulating municipal elections, including campaign finance;
2. The City of Vancouver has long standing, and often reaffirmed policy, on campaign finance reform that includes a ban on union and corporate donations, caps on contributions from individuals, election spending limits, ongoing reporting and better measures for enforcement of the rules;
3. In 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, and 2013 via a motion endorsed nearly unanimously by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities, and in 2014 and 2015, the City of Vancouver has brought forward formal requests to the Province requesting changes to the *Vancouver Charter* to allow Vancouver to create rules for municipal election campaign finance;

4. On April 7, 2016, six years after committing to taking action on municipal campaign finance reform, the Provincial Government passed Bill 17 - Local Election Campaign Financing Amendment Act which fails to prevent unlimited contributions to municipal political parties from corporations, unions and individuals with very few limits on spending;
5. The funds used to campaign for elected office in Vancouver have grown from \$1 million to \$5.85 million in the years Vancouver has waited for Provincial action on this issue, with the unprecedented case in the 2011 Vancouver municipal election of \$1 million donated to one electoral organization from a single corporation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver call on the Provincial Government to hold a referendum at the time of the 2017 Provincial General Election on the question of whether or not municipalities should be able to regulate campaign finance rules for local elections including the power to ban donations from corporations and unions, limit contributions from individuals and impose election spending limits.

Yours truly,



Janice MacKenzie
City Clerk

c: Mayor Gregor Robertson, City of Vancouver



May 20, 2016

Ref: 167312

Ms. Janice MacKenzie
City Clerk
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Ms. MacKenzie:

Thank you for your letter of May 5, 2016, regarding a 2017 British Columbia Provincial Election ballot question on municipal campaign finance reform, approved by Vancouver City Council on May 3, 2016.

The Government of British Columbia does not anticipate any further changes to municipal campaign finance rules at this time. Bill 17–2016, the *Local Elections Campaign Financing (Election Expenses) Amendment Act, 2016*, was implemented in response to the recommendations of the Local Government Elections Task Force and the all-party Special Committee on Local Elections Expense Limits.

The Task Force did not recommend establishing general limits on contribution amounts or sources. Political contributions are a way for people to participate in the democratic process, especially for those who may not be eligible to vote but are affected by local government decisions. The Task Force recommended expense limits as a way to reduce the need for large contributions to finance election campaigns and help level the playing field among candidates, without limiting the diversity of people and organizations who can participate in an election. Furthermore, the Task Force was concerned that having a different set of rules in different communities could lead to unfairness, confusion and potential compliance and enforcement challenges.

British Columbians and election participants expressed their support for the proposed expense limits legislation during consultations. Bill 17 has a positive impact on British Columbia's local elections in providing a level playing field for all local government election candidates and by maximizing fairness, transparency and accountability.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Peter Fassbender
Minister

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Ms. Janice MacKenzie

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pc: The Honourable Christy Clark
Premier

Mr. Keith Archer
Chief Electoral Officer
Elections BC

Mr. Anton Boegman
Deputy Chief Electoral Officer
Elections BC

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