

File No.: 04-1000-20-2019-190

May 3, 2019

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 March 19, 2019 for:

1. **All internal emails sent and received by the Mayor and the Mayor's political staff pertaining to the motion "A Proposed Alternative to Provincial Encroachment on the City of Vancouver's Municipal Tax Base" passed on December 12, 2018.**
2. **All emails sent and received by the Mayor and the Mayor's political staff to and from the Provincial Government pertaining to the motion "A Proposed Alternative to Provincial Encroachment on the City of Vancouver's Municipal Tax Base" passed on December 12, 2018.**

**Date Range: December 1, 2018 to January 31, 2019.**

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](mailto: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 (#04-1000-20-2019-190); 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](mailto:foi@vancouver.ca) if you have any questions.

Yours truly,



**Barbara J. Van Fraassen, BA**  
**Director, Access to Information & Privacy**

[Barbara.vanfraassen@vancouver.ca](mailto:Barbara.vanfraassen@vancouver.ca)  
453 W. 12th Avenue Vancouver BC V5Y 1V4

\*If you have any questions, please email us at [foi@vancouver.ca](mailto:foi@vancouver.ca) and we will respond to you as soon as possible. Or you can call the FOI Case Manager at 604.871.6584.

Encl.

:kt

## Sebastian, Lorraine

---

**From:** Monckton, Neil  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 10:45 AM  
**To:** Sebastian, Lorraine  
**Subject:** FW: Another motion  
**Attachments:** School Tax - Nov. 27.18.pdf

---

**From:** Monckton, Neil  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 27, 2018 5:07 PM  
**To:** 'Rob.gillezeau@gov.bc.ca'  
**Subject:** Another motion

Hi Rob,

Here's another motion coming to council next week. It will be made public tomorrow.

Neil

e: [neil.monckton@vancouver.ca](mailto:neil.monckton@vancouver.ca)  
c: 604-754-7632

## MOTION ON NOTICE

### 8. **A Proposed Alternative to Provincial Encroachment on the City of Vancouver's Municipal Tax Base**

SUBMITTED BY: Councillor Bligh

#### WHEREAS

1. Property taxes are the main source of tax revenue for the City of Vancouver and other British Columbia municipalities;
2. In addition to municipal property taxes, the City of Vancouver also collects school taxes on behalf of the Province and remits these revenues to the Province;
3. Starting in 2019, the Province of British Columbia plans to apply a controversial surcharge on the provincial school tax, the proceeds of which will flow to the Province's general tax revenues;  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/taxes/property-taxes/annual-property-tax/school-tax>
4. The Province's surcharge on school taxes will apply to most "high-valued residential properties in the province", specifically those assessed at \$3 million or more;
5. The Province's school tax surtax rate will be an additional 0.2 percent on the residential portion of properties assessed between \$3 million and \$4 million (i.e., an additional \$2,000 surtax), and 0.4 percent on the residential portion of properties assessed over \$4 million (i.e., an additional \$4,000 surtax per million of assessed value);
6. Unlike the provincial school tax, and municipal property taxes, the Province's new surtax is not based on an equitable mill rate – it is based on a straight percentage of assessed value and assumed wealth, and it sets a controversial precedent;
7. There is an inequitable collection of the tax from those municipalities that have a higher distribution of homes valued over \$3 million, including the City of Vancouver;
8. The Province's surcharge on the provincial school tax represents an encroachment on the City of Vancouver's municipal tax base. Residents could perceive the increase on their property tax bill is a result of municipal financial mismanagement and thus could 'revolt' against City of Vancouver property tax increases.

#### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT the Mayor of Vancouver on behalf of City Council send a letter to the Premier, BC Minister of Finance, Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the BC Green Party requesting that the Province withdraw the proposed surcharge on the provincial school

tax and recommend that the Province use other tax-generating options available to the Province, such as the progressive income tax system, to fund the BC budget; and

FURTHER THAT it be noted in the letter to the BC Minister of Finance that the Province's progressive income tax base could more equitably generate the \$250 million in revenue that the surtax is expected to raise toward the provincial budget – e.g., a 0.25-per-cent increase applied to the top income tax bracket would mean that a taxpayer with a net income of less than \$150,000 per year would pay no additional income tax while someone earning a net income of \$250,000 per year would only pay \$250 in additional income tax.

\* \* \* \* \*