

File No.: 04-1000-20-2023-011

February 3, 2023

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 January 5, 2023 under the ***Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*** for:

Record of Mayor Stewart's letter to the Premier and Minister of Municipal Affairs regarding the motion "Endorsing the Vote16BC Campaign to Lower the Voting Age to 16 Across British Columbia" that was considered and adopted at the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities on June 23, 2021, or confirmation that this letter was sent. Date range: June 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021.

All responsive records are attached.

Under section 52 of the Act, and within 30 business days of receipt of this letter, you may ask the Information & Privacy Commissioner to review any matter related to the City's response to your FOI request 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 (#04-1000-20-2023-011); 2) a copy of this letter; 3) a copy of your original request; and 4) detailed reasons why you are seeking the review.

Yours truly,

[Signed by Cobi Falconer]

Cobi Falconer, MAS, MLIS, CIPP/C
Director, Access to Information & Privacy
cobi.falconer@vancouver.ca
453 W. 12th Avenue Vancouver BC V5Y 1V4

If you have any questions, please email us at 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.

:pm



MAYOR KENNEDY STEWART

October 25, 2021

Premier John Horgan
Office of the Premier
PO Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E1

Honourable Josie Osborne
Minister of Municipal Affairs
PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Re: Lowering the voting age to 16 in British Columbia

Dear Premier Horgan and Minister Osborne,

I'm writing to share the City of Vancouver's endorsement of the Vote16BC Campaign to empower youth to participate in the democratic process. This letter is prompted by a June 23, 2021 motion adopted by Vancouver City Council, and attached as an appendix.

Across BC, the campaign to lower the voting age to 16 for municipal and provincial elections has been endorsed by at least 20 non-profits, unions, and labour councils, including BC Teachers' Federation, BCGEU, and Sustainabiliteens. In 2019, the Union of BC Municipalities endorsed a resolution calling on the Province to revise the minimum voting age in municipal elections to 16 years old. Several jurisdictions worldwide, including Austria, Argentina, and Scotland, have already lowered the voting age to 16.

Moreover, studies show that the earlier people vote, they become more likely to vote again and throughout their life. They also indicate that younger voters create a "trickle up" effect, where parents and other adults in their lives are more likely to vote when youth do.

Council and I are aware that as Premier, you have expressed an openness to the idea of lowering the voting age. Moreover, the BC NDP passed a resolution to lower the voting age to 16 at convention.



I remain hopeful that your government will chose to make this a priority as the province emerges from the pandemic into a healthy economic recovery, and we stand ready to provide assistance on this matter should you need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E Kennedy Stewart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and a stylized "S" at the end.

Kennedy Stewart
Mayor, City of Vancouver

Appendix:

MOTION - Endorsing the Vote16BC Campaign to Lower the Voting Age to 16 across British Columbia

On June 23, 2021, Vancouver City Council unanimously approved the following motion:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council formally endorses the Vote16BC campaign to lower the voting age to 16 in British Columbia.
- B. THAT Council requests the Mayor to write a letter to the Premier and the Minister of Municipal Affairs informing them of this endorsement.