

MOTION ON NOTICE

Local Elections Task Force Follow-up

MOVER: Councillor Ellen Woodsworth

SECONDER:

WHEREAS:

1. The City of Vancouver made a submission to the BC Local Governments Elections Task Force on April 12, 2010;
2. The Task Force delivered its recommendations to the Province of British Columbia and Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) in the Report of the Local Government Elections Task Force on March 28, 2010;
3. While the Province should be commended for some excellent work, Vancouver City Council's unanimous call for contribution limits, ongoing political contributions disclosure, public financing and providing the City with the ability to institute the electoral system of its choice were not part of the Task Force's 31 recommendations;
4. Election contribution limits are particularly crucial to ensure that undue influence is taken out of municipal politics;
5. Since the Task Force has made its report public on May 28, the Task Force co-chair and then Minister of Community and Rural Development Bill Bennett has said he was willing to meet with Vancouver City Council to consider further changes for election campaigns in the City of Vancouver;
6. Many UBCM members have stated that the electoral reforms the City of Vancouver have advocated for are not relevant to the majority of BC's Municipal Governments; and

With election campaign spending nearly quadrupling from \$1.3 million in 2006 to over \$5 million in 2008, the electoral challenges facing Vancouver are unique when compared to the other 188 BC local governments.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. THAT the City of Vancouver bring a motion to the UBCM requesting that it ask the Provincial Government to implement a specific contribution limit for individual and organizational donors that respects the needs of different communities;
2. THAT the City of Vancouver bring a motion to the UBCM requesting that it endorse the City of Vancouver's right to seek additional changes to the Vancouver Charter to address outstanding electoral finance reforms that were not included in the Report of the Local Governments Elections Task Force; and

3. THAT the City of Vancouver bring a motion to the UBCM requesting that the Provincial government meet with the City of Vancouver as part of a process to develop new legislative provisions to solely improve the electoral process by the 2011 civic election for the City of Vancouver.

4. THAT the Mayor write a letter to the Provincial government AND THE UBCM expressing our concerns for the omission of important items in our recommendations submitted to the Local Government Elections Task Force: contribution limits, on-going disclosure, ban on union/corporate/foreign donations, tax credits for political donations, as well as Vancouver's choice of electoral system; And to request a meeting with the Minister to discuss legislative provisions INCLUDING VANCOUVER CHARTER CHANGES that would improve the electoral process in Vancouver for the 2011 civic election.

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