



Sylvia Bishop and Team Delta pledge to open Economic Development Office

July 11, 2018 - Delta, B.C. – The City of Delta will have a new, robust Economic Development Office should mayoral candidate Sylvia Bishop and her *Team Delta* colleagues win election to the local council in October.

“Surprisingly, Delta is one of the few sizeable municipalities in British Columbia not to have its own Economic Development department, agency or corporation,” Bishop said today.

“I believe we must be increasingly and enthusiastically pro-active so as to encourage new investment and job creation in our community,” she added.

“Commercial enterprises that locate to, or expand in, Delta will generate significant new revenues for our municipality, which in turn will allow us to continue delivering much-needed services for local residents without having to increase the cost-burden on businesses, homeowners and others.”

Bishop noted that the City of Delta in recent years has achieved some success in attracting new investment, but much more ought to be done in the future.

“Our city has enormous potential for emerging-economy businesses including technology and Green Economy enterprises, plus we have notable resources to accommodate sectors such as manufacturing and assembly, scientific and pharmaceutical research, tourism, film-making, and much more” she said.

“Importantly, the completion in late 2013 of the South Fraser Perimeter Road has opened up incredible opportunities for the development of Tilbury Island and nearby areas, and I believe the time is right for us to now be more energetic in our approach to marketing Delta’s business and commercial prospects.”

Bishop also observed that, in looking at the eight largest municipalities in the Lower Mainland, all but Delta have a defined strategy or department to encourage economic development.

“Vancouver, Surrey, Burnaby, Richmond, Coquitlam, Langley Township and Maple Ridge have invested much time and effort to understand and promote local investment opportunities,” said Bishop.

“We should, too, if we don’t want to be left behind. In the event that my *Team Delta* colleagues and I are successful in winning election to city council in October, we intend to make responsible economic development a top priority.”

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BACKGROUNDER

Nearly all large municipalities in British Columbia have their own economic development offices, departments, commissions or corporations. Below are some examples of Lower Mainland communities.

* Vancouver – the province’s largest city (2017 est. pop. 656,164) has staff at City Hall who specialize in economic development, and it also funds and oversees the Vancouver Economic Commission, which among other activities publishes the *Vancouver Business & Investment Guide*.

* Surrey – B.C.’s second-largest city (pop. 556,566) has an Economic Development department, and also owns and operates the Surrey City Development Corporation (SCDC).

* Burnaby – the city (pop. 234,433) has an Economic Development arm in the Burnaby Board of Trade, which assists with the implementation of an Economic Development Strategy along with a Social Sustainability Strategy.

- * Richmond – the city (pop, 219,273) has a dedicated Richmond Economic Development Office, with a mandate to strategically grow the city’s business and employment base, and ensure the City maintains a competitive business environment.

- * Coquitlam – the city (pop. 150,144) has an Economic Development Advisory Committee, as well as an Economic Development Office, a Tourism Office and a Film Office.

- * Langley, District of – the city (pop. 127,730) has an Economic Development Department that helps to attract, retain, and grow industry, investment and jobs, and works to implement a 236-page Economic Development Strategy developed earlier in the decade.

- * Delta – the city (pop. 102,679) primarily has assigned the Chief Administrative Officer to oversee business-oriented projects. A committee to provide guidance on economic development – the ‘Invest in Delta Mayor’s Standing Committee’ – was convened twice in 2017 and just once in 2018.

- * Maple Ridge – the city (pop. 87,713) has both an Economic Development Committee that advises the elected council, and an Economic Development Team composed of civic officials.