



Bishop pledges to promote financial accountability “on-line”

July 3, 2018 - Delta, B.C. – Sylvia Bishop, a two-term councillor now seeking the Mayor’s office under the banner of *Team Delta*, announced today that she will make local-government financial accountability a priority should she win election on October 20.

As a first step, Bishop pledged that she would immediately post “on-line” – on the internet – current and past reports prepared in accordance with B.C.’s *Financial Information Act*. The documents also are known as Statements of Financial Information (SOFI)

“It is long past time for our city to provide local residents and taxpayers, potential investors and others, with the most up-to-date financial information about Delta’s financial payments to council members, employees and suppliers,” said Bishop.

“Our city has a laudable and enviable financial record, and it is important that we move forward to make that information available to the widest-possible audience.”

Bishop noted that for many years the vast majority of municipalities in B.C. have put their SOFIs on-line. That includes both large cities, such as Vancouver and Surrey, as well as much smaller communities including Williams Lake, Grand Forks and Pouce Coupe.

The 2016 Canada census counted Vancouver’s population at 631,486, and Surrey’s at 517,887, while the populations of Williams Lake, 10,832, Grand Forks, 4,049, and

Pouce Coupe, 792 were considerably smaller.

The City of Delta is British Columbia's 8th largest municipality with population in 2016 of 102,238.

"If nearly every city, town and village in B.C. can do it, regardless of their size or population, so can we," said Bishop. "If I win election as the Mayor on October 20, I pledge that the City of Delta's financial information statements will be made available on-line within a matter of days."

The Province of British Columbia's *Financial information Act*, enacted in 1985, requires all entities – described in two schedules to the statute as associations, boards, commissions, corporations and societies – that receive provincial monies through a grant, advance or borrowing, to file an annual return that provides a range of financial information.

Included in that financial information is a statement of assets and liabilities, an operational statement, a schedule of debts and a schedule of guarantee and indemnity agreements. Importantly, the SOFI also requires detailed listings of annual remuneration paid to elected officials, unelected employees and payments to suppliers.

The law currently demands that scheduled entities keep a copy of their SOFI "available at its head office during usual business hours," but most municipalities, colleges, universities, Crown corporations and other organizations – with the notable exception of Delta – each year pro-actively post it on-line.

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