



## **Team Delta to fight for new ambulance station in Tsawwassen**

*Third component of slate's 'Action Plan for Health Care'*

October 1, 2018 - Delta, B.C. - Sylvia Bishop said today that obtaining an ambulance station for Tsawwassen will be a top priority if she and her Team Delta colleagues win election to council on October 20.

“The south Delta area – which encompasses the community of Tsawwassen, the Tsawwassen First Nations’ lands, the Westshore and GCT Deltaport terminals at Roberts Bank, and the BC Ferries terminal – is becoming more densely-populated and increasingly commercialized,” said Bishop, a two-term councillor who is Team Delta’s mayoral candidate.

“It is an exceptionally challenging situation when the nearest ambulance station is located in Ladner, and an emergency-services vehicle may have to travel 12 or 13 kilometres through often-congested traffic before arriving at the Ferry terminal or Boundary Beach.”

She added: “Such a trip can take up to 15 minutes or more, which may be far too long for a person in distress or in need of emergency-care to wait for medical assistance.”

Robert Campbell, a veteran councillor who is seeking re-election under the Team Delta banner, noted that new property-developments currently are planned for the Southlands and Tsawwassen First Nation’s territory.

“The Southlands project will see the construction of as many as 950 new housing units in addition to another 80,000 square feet of commercial space,” Campbell said. “Plus, the Tsawwassen First Nation has their busy Tsawwassen Mills shopping centre – now with over 200 stores – and is actively working to expand the Tsawwassen Commons and develop new housing projects.”

Dr. Joan Hansen, a newcomer to municipal politics but a long-time Tsawwassen optometrist and business-owner, noted that vehicle and passenger volumes on BC Ferries have been rising in recent years.

“Last year, in 2017, nearly one-million vehicles and four-million passengers departed from Tsawwassen terminal for either Schwartz Bay or Duke Point,” said Dr. Hansen. “And a comparable number of vehicles and passengers arrived at Tsawwassen from those two destinations.

“Recent news reports, moreover, have stated that the first six months of 2018 saw the largest numbers of vehicles and passengers traveling on BC Ferries in the last two decades.”

Bishop concluded by noting Tsawwassen, which in 2017 had a population counted at 21,558, deserved an ambulance station on its own merits, notwithstanding the South Delta’s economic development projects.

“I think it’s wonderful that communities such as Sooke, Comox, Prince Rupert, Kitimat, Fort St. John, Quesnel, Williams Lake, Salmon Arm, Trail and Hope – along with dozens of other communities in BC – have their own ambulance stations,” Bishop said. (See backgrounder for population comparisons).

“However, I also believe that it would wonderful if the B.C. Ambulance Service had a station in Tsawwassen to serve local residents, as well as those traveling through on their way to work or Vancouver Island.”

- 30 -

### **Backgrounder attached**

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### BACKGROUND

Many communities in British Columbia, with populations smaller than that of Tsawwassen, have their own B.C. Ambulance Service station. Below is a table of communities with a population of between 5,000 and 21,000 with ambulance services.

<u>Community</u>	<u>Population (2017)</u>
Tsawwassen	21,558
Fort St John	20,363
Squamish	19,851
Cranbrook	19,771
Salmon Arm	19,661
Pitt Meadows	19,580
White Rock	19,187
Oak Bay	18,717
Colwood	17,952
Esquimalt	16,899
Central Saanich	16,213
Port Alberni	15,788

Comox	14,295
Sooke	13,957
Powell River	13,476
Lake Country	13,294
Parksville	13,001
Dawson Creek	11,840
Summerland	11,651
Williams Lake	11,418
Sidney	11,349
Nelson	11,220
North Saanich	11,093
Coldstream	11,083
Prince Rupert	10,713
Whistler	10,582
View Royal	10,380
Terrace	10,289
Sechelt DM	9,592
Ladysmith	8,949
Qualicum Beach	8,812
Quesnel	8,718
Castlegar	7,947
Merritt	7,737
Kitimat	7,421
Revelstoke	7,336
Trail	7,165
Kimberley	7,055
Kent	6,338
Hope	5,921
Smithers	5,430
Peachland	5,079
Duncan	5,040

(Source: BC Stats.)