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BISHOP
and **TEAM DELTA**

Delta councillor Robert Campbell files FOI request with Metro Vancouver
City bureaucrat's opposition to public consultation "deeply troubling," says Campbell

September 14, 2018 – Delta, B.C. – A memo written after a contentious 2013 meeting between the City of Delta's then-City Manager, George Harvie, and a Metro Vancouver environmental-enforcement official has prompted Delta councillor Robert Campbell to file a Freedom of Information (FOI) request with the regional district.

"I am angered, puzzled and disappointed to learn – more than five years after the event – that Mr. Harvie strenuously opposed public consultation to discuss the Enviro-Smart composting operation in Ladner," said Campbell, a retired lawyer and 19-year City Council veteran.

"I believe the public has a right to know all of the facts," Campbell said, "and to get to the bottom of the issue I have written to the Metro Vancouver Regional District to request – through the province's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act – all relevant documents pertaining to the meeting between the regional-district official and Mr. Harvie, along with Enviro-Smart representatives, on March 28, 2013."

Authored by Ray Robb, Metro Vancouver's environmental and regulatory enforcement manager, the memo has gained widespread circulation in Delta in recent weeks.

For the past several years Ladner residents have been plagued by a persistent and foul stench emitted by the Enviro-Smart composting facility, and the issue has become a popular topic of discussion in the local-government election-campaign now underway in Delta.

Mr. Harvie, who submitted a letter of resignation as Delta's City Manager in October 2017, currently is seeking election as the Mayor of Delta. The incumbent, Lois Jackson, also previously announced her retirement but now has declared her candidacy for a seat on Council as a member of Mr. Harvie's election slate.

The controversial 2013 meeting at the Enviro-Smart facility, between Mr. Harvie, Daryl Goodwin, the President of Enviro-Smart, and two Enviro-Smart 'consultants,' and Mr. Robb of the Metro Vancouver Regional District, was to discuss regulatory oversight of the composting operation.

Mr. Robb's subsequent memo – addressed to five senior Metro Vancouver officials – contained the following observations:

- 'The meeting began with George Harvey (sic) demanding to know why I was requiring them [Enviro-Smart] to get an air permit'
- '.... Mr. Harvey (sic) kept pointing to the fact they [Enviro-Smart] had a solid waste licence and that should be good enough.'

- ‘Both Mr. Harvey (sic) and Mr. Goodwin were objecting to the notion of any public consultation regarding air permits or solid waste licences.’
- ‘George Harvey (sic) appeared to say I should just grant Enviro-Smart everything they want ... without any consultation and tell them they didn’t need an air permit’
- ‘Mr. Harvey (sic), Mr. Goodwin and the consultants all seemed to feel that ... we no longer were regulating odour.’
- ‘I tried to explain the legal framework ... a couple of times. I don’t think I ever made it through my explanation without receiving outbursts from one or more of Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Harvey (sic) and the consultants.’

“If Mr. Robb’s memorandum is accurate with regards to the conduct of our former City Manager – and notably Mr. Harvie’s alleged opposition to consultation with Ladner residents – we need to get to the bottom of it.” said Campbell.

“The current situation is unacceptable and deeply troubling,” he added. “Local residents are confused by conflicting statements from the municipality’s retired City Manager and current members of Council, and meanwhile Delta residents are left with an unsatisfactory explanation as to what actually transpired back in 2013.”

First elected to Delta Council in 1999, Campbell is seeking re-election as a councillor on a slate called Team Delta. The slate is headed by incumbent councillor Sylvia Bishop, now running to become Mayor of Delta, along with municipal newcomers Dr. Joan Hansen, Kim Kendall and Simran Walia.

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[Click here to read Metro Vancouver 2013 Memorandum](#)

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