

Sylvia
BISHOP
and **TEAM DELTA**

Affordable Housing ‘Summit’ pledged for first 100 days following election – Bishop

‘Action Plan on Housing’ introduced by Team Delta

September 4, 2018 – Delta, B.C. – Sylvia Bishop, a two-term councillor now seeking election as Mayor, said today the City of Delta will host a summit-meeting to explore and identify policies that will improve the municipality’s stock of affordable housing and rental accommodation, should the Team Delta slate of candidates be successful in the up-coming local-government elections.

The summit – with invited guests to include academics, economists, community and housing activists, developers, leading Delta residents and others – will be held before January 26, 2019. Soon thereafter, the City of Delta’s newly-elected Mayor and Council will enact new municipal policies to take effect in the early spring.

“I believe that the issues of housing-affordability and access to rental accommodation are increasingly important to a growing number of Delta residents,” said Bishop.

“That is why I have pledged to host a summit-meeting within the first 100 days of the October 20 local-government elections. We don’t have a moment to lose in coming to grips with what many people have described as a ‘housing crisis’.”

Bishop also announced that she and Team Delta later this week will release ‘A Made in Delta Solution: A Research Paper on Affordable Housing and Rental Accommodation’. The paper will offer an overview of the challenges currently facing British Columbians, and especially those who reside in the Lower Mainland and Delta.

Among the research paper’s highlights:

- British Columbia’s population, which surpassed one million in 1946, surged past three million in 1986, four million in 1999, and by 2021 (just three years from now) is expected to surpass five million.
- The number of people living in Delta also is growing. From a population of 102,000 in 2001, the community is forecast by BC Stats to have 115,400 residents by 2041.
- The price of a residential home in Greater Vancouver has skyrocketed in recent decades. According to an analysis by MLS, the average house in 1987 cost \$132,659, and then grew over the next two decades to \$570,795. Over just the last decade – from 2007 to 2017 – the average price has exploded to \$1,031,546.

- Data collected by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation shows that median-apartment rents in Metro Vancouver rose from \$830 to \$1,200 per month between 2007 to 2017. According to the CMHC, the 4.5 per cent annual-average increase in rents over the last decade was nearly double the 2.7 per cent average-annual increase in wages across the region.
- The rental-vacancy rate in B.C., according to the CMHC Rental Market Survey, fell from 2.6 per cent in 2001, to 1.3 per cent in 2016. In Metro Vancouver in 2016, the rental-vacancy rate was just 0.7 per cent.

“Team Delta and I are dedicated to improving the lives of all Delta residents,” said Bishop. “To that end we have developed a number of ‘Action Plans’ that address a variety of pressing issues.

“I therefore am very pleased today to introduce our ‘Action Plan on Affordable Housing and Rents,’ which we intend to put into action once voters go to the polls on October 20 and give us a mandate for the next four years.”

Seeking election alongside Bishop are Team Delta candidates Robert Campbell, a veteran councillor, and newcomers Dr. Joan Hansen, Kim Kendall and Simran Walia.

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CONTACT:

Jason Craik, co-campaign manager
Kristy Fredericks, co-campaign manager
teamdeltamedia@gmail.com

604-603-1790
604-626-1374