

April 14, 2010

Local Government Elections Task Force  
c/o Ministry of Community and Rural Development  
PO Box 9839 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9T1  
Email: [localelectionstaskforce@gov.bc.ca](mailto:localelectionstaskforce@gov.bc.ca)

via email

Task Force Members,

**RE: Submission for Local Government Elections Review**

In response to your invitation to offer feedback to the Task Force on specific topics the Nanaimo Duncan and District Labour Council (NDDLC) respectfully submits this letter for your review on behalf of our executive, delegates and over 12,000 affiliate members.

The NDDLC is an active participant in election campaigns at every level of government and believe the following suggestions would improve the transparency and democratic process for all groups involved.

*Campaign Finance*

The NDDLC suggests spending limits be set for each municipality based on a per capita basis. At one end would be a \$1000 maximum. Using a sliding scale and depending on the number of eligible voters that limit would increase by \$.05 per voter. A similar formula is used in Ontario and Quebec.

Full disclosure documents would be filed 90 (ninety) days after the election and an audit required for campaigns with over \$5000 in expenses.

A Tax credit system should be implemented similar to the provincial model. It should ban anonymous donations and limit cash donations to \$20.00.

*Enforcement Procedures and Outcomes & Role of Chief Electoral Officer*

With guidelines in place similar to BC Elections Act and Elections BC, the Chief Electoral Officer should be the body overseeing all municipal elections.

Access to disclosure statements should be made available as is the practice during a provincial election.

### *Election Cycle*

Current 3 (three) year terms of office should remain the same.

We would propose that the election date be moved to October. This would be a benefit to northern residents in particular. Weather conditions are a factor in voter turnout. If barriers to voting can be reduced, the better it is for everyone.

### *Corporate Vote*

The NDDLDC believes that giving corporations a vote is both wrong and problematic. What would be considered a corporation and what would not? If, as has been suggested, each licensed business in the municipality be given a vote that would entitle some business owners to vote more than once. Would that apply to non profit organizations? Unions? It is not democratic and the principle of *one person, one vote* is lost. No organizations should be able to vote in municipal or school board elections. Only people living within the boundaries of the municipality should have the right to vote municipally (or the equivalent, such as a regional district) or for school board.

### *Local Government Volunteers*

We support the resolution to exempt volunteer firefighters from being designated as employees for election purposes.

Thank you for your consideration.