




BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Local Government Elections Reform

Regional District Chairs and CAOs Forum, Spring 2014

1



BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Overview

- Task Force Recommendations
- Overview of the changes
  - Accountability
  - Transparency
  - Compliance and Enforcement
  - Education and Advice
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Question

2



BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Task Force Recommendations

- Local Elections Task Force
  - Report released in May 2010
  - 31 recommendations; 5 themes
- Task Force themes:
  - Phase one:
    - Enhance accountability
    - Enhance transparency
    - Strengthen compliance and enforcement
    - Expand education and advice
  - Phase two:
    - Increase accessibility

3



BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Enhancing accountability

- A separate act for campaign financing provisions (*Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*)
- Expanded solemn declaration (awareness and compliance with the new rules)
- Third party advertising sponsors to register with Elections BC

4



BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Enhancing transparency

- Clearer contribution and election expense rules
- New rules for election advertising
  - Sponsorship information required
- New disclosure rules:
  - Reduced filing deadline
  - Disclosure statements filed with/published online by Elections BC

5



BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Strengthening Compliance and Enforcement

- Elections BC responsible for enforcing election advertising and campaign financing rules
- Elections BC focuses on compliance
- New offences framework
  - New time limit for starting prosecutions
  - Elections BC must approve all prosecutions
  - Updated offence penalties

6



## Expanding Education and Advice

- Collaborative approach, coordinated through Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- TAC representatives appointed by parties involved in elections:
  - UBCM, LGMA, Elections BC, CSCD, MEd and Justice
- TAC considers matters of common interest, including
  - Education materials
  - Information sharing processes

7



## Roles and Responsibilities

- Local Governments
  - Key contact for elections administration questions (e.g. eligibility, nominations, endorsement etc.)
  - Responsible for administering local elections (e.g. the vote)
- Elections BC
  - Key contact for election advertising and campaign financing questions (e.g. recording contributions)
  - Administer, investigate and enforce campaign finance rules
- Ministry of Community Sport and Cultural Development
  - General elections advice and materials (not campaign finance)

8



## Questions?

For answers to legislative questions **about municipal, regional district or trust area elections** please call:

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development  
 Advisory Services  
 Phone: 250 387-4020  
 Website: [www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections\\_home.htm](http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/elections_home.htm)

Once the legislation is passed, refer questions about **election advertising and campaign financing** to:

Electoral Finance at Elections BC  
 Phone: 250 387-5305  
 Toll-free: 1 800 661-8683 / TTY 1 888 456-5448  
 Email: [electoral.finance@elections.bc.ca](mailto:electoral.finance@elections.bc.ca)  
 Website: [www.elections.bc.ca](http://www.elections.bc.ca)

9