



May 10, 2021

Ref: 265797

Her Worship Mayor Lisa Helps
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Sq
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps:

Thank you for your insightful letter of March 18, 2021, requesting that the Local Government Act be amended to increase the amount of time between the nomination period and the beginning of the campaign period. I appreciate hearing from the City of Victoria about how we can work together to increase accessibility and improve operational efficiencies for local government elections.

To support effective election administration and mail ballot voting processes, the Province of British Columbia is committed to working with local governments and our local government election partners, such as the Union of BC Municipalities, the Local Government Management Association (LGMA) and Elections BC. On the ideas you brought forward, Patrick Thompson, Director, Governance Services, will reach out to City staff to discuss and understand better the details around the challenges you raised.

As the feasibility of legislative changes are considered, Ministry of Municipal Affairs staff will continue to work with local government election administrators, Elections BC and the LGMA on practical steps forward to address this issue.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



Josie Osborne
Minister

pc: Patrick Thompson, Director, Governance Services, Governance and Structure