



ELECTIONS BC

A non-partisan Office of the Legislature

Report of the Chief Electoral Officer
on the Initiative Petition:
"An initiative to end the harmonized sales tax (HST)"

February 4 - August 23, 2010

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February 4 - August 23, 2010



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November 8, 2010

The Honourable Bill Barisoff
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Province of British Columbia
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
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Honourable Speaker:

I have the honour to present the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Initiative Petition:
“An initiative to end the harmonized sales tax (HST)”, February 4 – August 23, 2010.

This report describes the proceedings, the results and the costs of administering the initiative
petition.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CJ', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Craig James
Acting Chief Electoral Officer
British Columbia



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Overview

Summary

This report describes the proceedings, the results and the costs of administering the initiative petition “An initiative to end the harmonized sales tax (HST)” during the period of February 4, 2010 through August 23, 2010. This report does not include events that occurred after this date, including, but not limited to, the decision of the Select Standing Committee on Legislative Initiatives to refer the matter to the Chief Electoral Officer for an initiative vote. This will be included in a future report on the initiative vote.

The application of the proponent, William Vander Zalm, was received on December 24, 2009 and was approved in principle on February 4, 2010 by the Chief Electoral Officer¹. The petition was issued to the proponent on April 6, 2010. There were no registered opponents to the initiative petition. The petition was submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer on June 30, 2010 for determination of whether the petition complied with the *Recall and Initiative Act*, meaning it was signed by 10% of the registered voters in each electoral district who were entitled to sign the petition.

On June 29, 2010, a request for judicial review was filed with the Supreme Court of B.C. regarding the Chief Electoral Officer’s decision to grant approval in principle to the initiative petition. On August 11, 2010, the Chief Electoral Officer determined that the petition met the legislated requirements and the proponent did not exceed the expenses limit established in the *Recall and Initiative Act*. In deference to the court, the Chief Electoral Officer placed the petition and draft Bill in abeyance until after the judicial review was complete. On August 23, 2010, after the court upheld the decision to grant approval in principle to the initiative petition application, the Chief Electoral Officer sent a copy of the petition and the draft Bill to the Select Standing Committee on Legislative Initiatives, fulfilling the Chief Electoral Officer’s responsibilities under the *Recall and Initiative Act*.

Elections BC incurred costs of \$1,116,835 to administer the HST initiative petition.

¹ The Chief Electoral Officer’s term of office ended on June 5, 2010. An Acting Chief Electoral Officer was appointed and held office during the remainder of the initiative petition process. For clarity, all references in this report will be to the title of Chief Electoral Officer.

The initiative process

The *Recall and Initiative Act*, the legislation that governs the initiative petition process, was established as a consequence of the 1991 Recall and Initiative Referendum in which voters voted in favour of the right to propose questions that the government must submit to voters by referendum.

In 1993 the Select Standing Committee on Parliamentary Reform, Ethical Conduct, Standing Orders and Private Bills recommended a citizen initiative process by which voters could petition the government to introduce a draft Bill for consideration by Members of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. A successful initiative petition would result in the introduction of the Bill during the next session of the House, or be put to voters in a vote that, if successful, would then oblige the government to introduce the Bill for consideration. The *Recall and Initiative Act* was passed by the Legislature in 1994 and came into force in 1995.

The *Recall and Initiative Act* provides for a process that allows registered voters to propose new laws or change existing laws. A suggested law must be within the jurisdiction of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia. The proponent of the initiative has 90 days to collect signatures of 10% of the registered voters in each electoral district. The proponent may be helped by volunteers when canvassing for signatures.

After the signed petition sheets are submitted, the Chief Electoral Officer has 42 days to verify that enough valid signatures were collected. If the verification process concludes that sufficient signatures were collected and the financing requirements under the Act were met by the proponent, the Chief Electoral Officer sends a copy of the petition and draft Bill to a Select Standing Committee of the Legislature.

The Select Standing Committee on Legislative Initiatives (the Select Standing Committee) must meet within 30 days of receipt of the initiative petition and draft Bill. The Select Standing Committee has 90 days to consider the legislative proposal. The committee must either table a report recommending introduction of the draft Bill in the House or refer the initiative petition and draft Bill to the Chief Electoral Officer for an initiative vote.

Prior to the HST initiative petition, the Chief Electoral Officer had approved six initiative petitions since the *Recall and Initiative Act* came into force. None of the six previous petitions obtained the required number of signatures to be referred to the Select Standing Committee.

The changing petition process

The last petition application to be approved by the Chief Electoral Officer was in 2002. Since 2002 a number of changes to how Elections BC administers the initiative process have taken place.

Initiative application and petition issuance

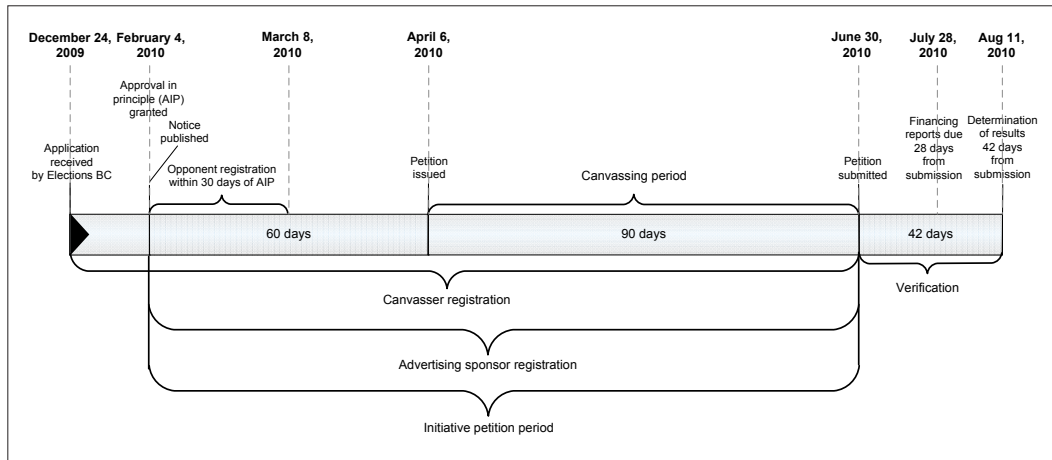
Technology was used as much as possible to improve the efficiency and reduce the cost of issuing and distributing the petition and related material. The Chief Electoral Officer sent the HST initiative petition sheets and cover sheet to the proponent by email and received confirmation of receipt similarly. Although the proponent was provided with some paper copies of products, most maps and the Location Index were provided as downloads from the Elections BC website. The website also contains other downloadable petition-related documents such as the petition application form. The proponent forwarded the relevant documents to the canvassers by email, allowing the canvassers to print the required documents as needed. Canvasser identification cards were sent electronically to the proponent by Elections BC, thereby eliminating the delay between the registration of canvassers and when they could begin to canvass. These new processes were more efficient and economical to administer.

Based upon the success of this electronic method of issuing the petition and supporting material, Elections BC intends to utilize it for all future petitions except when the applicant is unable to make use of electronic documents.

Verification

Since 2002 there have also been changes to the petition verification process by which the Chief Electoral Officer determines whether the submitted petition meets the requirements of the *Recall and Initiative Act*. In 2004, amendments to the *Election Act* removed the requirement that each voter sign a voter registration application. The purpose of this change was to allow voters to register online and to allow the sharing of voters list information between Elections BC and Elections Canada. These two new processes enabled the efficient registration of hundreds of thousands of B.C. voters. However, this also means that Elections BC no longer has a database containing the signature of every registered voter against which a signature on a petition could be compared. The Regulation containing the requirement to verify the petition by comparing the signatures on the petition sheets against the voter signature database was amended to reflect this change. Consequently, Elections BC developed a new process for verifying a petition by comparing the names and residential addresses on a petition with those on the voters list, and by contacting a statistically significant sample of the signatories to confirm that they signed the petition.

Figure 1: Initiative petition timeline



Approval in principle

An initiative petition begins with the receipt of an application. William Vander Zalm's application for the HST initiative petition was received by Elections BC on December 24, 2009. The application was reviewed for completeness and to ensure that legislative requirements had been met. An application must include a completed and signed application form, a non-refundable \$50 application fee and a draft Bill.

The draft Bill is draft legislation; it must be respecting a matter within the jurisdiction of the Legislature and must be drafted in a clear and unambiguous manner. That means that someone reading the draft Bill has a clear understanding of the law or amendment being proposed. In consultation with legal counsel, Elections BC reviewed the proponent's initial draft Bill and determined that it was not within the jurisdiction of the Legislature. The proponent submitted a revised draft Bill that the Chief Electoral Officer, after further consultation with legal counsel, subsequently determined met the requirements of the *Recall and Initiative Act*.

Prior to granting approval in principle, the Chief Electoral Officer must develop an official descriptive title for the initiative and an impartial summary of the initiative proposal contained in the draft Bill. The title and summary are included on a cover sheet that must accompany the petition during the canvassing period.

On February 4, 2010, the Chief Electoral Officer notified the applicant (now called the proponent) that he had granted approval in principle to the application and published a notice of that approval in the *British Columbia Gazette*. The notice was published in newspapers across the province the following week.

On June 29, 2010, the Chief Electoral Officer was served with notice that a group of individuals, on behalf of six business associations, were requesting judicial review of the Chief Electoral Officer's decision of February 4, 2010 to grant approval in principle to the HST initiative petition application. The challenge was made under the *Judicial Review Procedure Act*. The challenge was made on the basis that the Chief Electoral Officer erred in his decision to approve the HST petition application because the subject matter of the draft Bill was not “within the jurisdiction of the Legislature,” a requirement under section 2 of the *Recall and Initiative Act*; and because the draft Bill was not “drafted in a clear and unambiguous manner,” a requirement of section 3 of the Act.

The Chief Electoral Officer and the proponent were named as respondents to the request for judicial review. During the judicial review proceedings, counsel for the Chief Electoral Officer informed the court of the process by which approval in principle was granted.

On August 20, 2010, the Honourable Chief Justice Bauman upheld the Chief Electoral Officer's decision to grant approval in principle to the HST initiative petition.

Opponent registration

Individuals and organizations that wished to oppose the initiative petition and incur expenses in their opposition campaign were required to register as initiative opponents. The *Recall and Initiative Act* allows for up to five initiative opponents or opponent groups who will share an initiative petition expenses limit equal to that of the proponent.

Potential opponents had to apply to the Chief Electoral Officer within 30 days after the initiative petition application received approval in principle. Opponents are designated in accordance with the *Recall and Initiative Act* through a process that compares the relative support of applicants and grants opponent status accordingly.

The public notice of approval in principle that was published in newspapers across the province during the week of February 8, 2010, included information about applying to be an opponent.

The deadline for applications to be an opponent to the HST initiative petition was March 8, 2010.

By the close of the opponent registration application period, Elections BC had received no applications and therefore there were no registered opponents to the HST initiative petition.

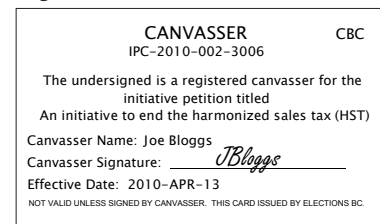
Canvasser registration

A proponent may be helped by volunteers, called canvassers, to gather signatures. Canvassers must be registered by Elections BC before they may begin canvassing for signatures and may begin submitting applications for registration to be a canvasser after the petition application is submitted, prior to approval in principle being granted. Applications for canvasser registration may continue to be submitted throughout the initiative petition period. Once registered, canvassers may canvass for signatures in any electoral district in the province.

All canvasser applications must be signed by the applicant and the proponent. Canvassers must be registered voters and they must not accept any payment or other inducement for canvassing – they must be true volunteers.

Canvassers are required to carry identification issued by the Chief Electoral Officer and produce it upon request.

Figure 2: Canvasser ID card



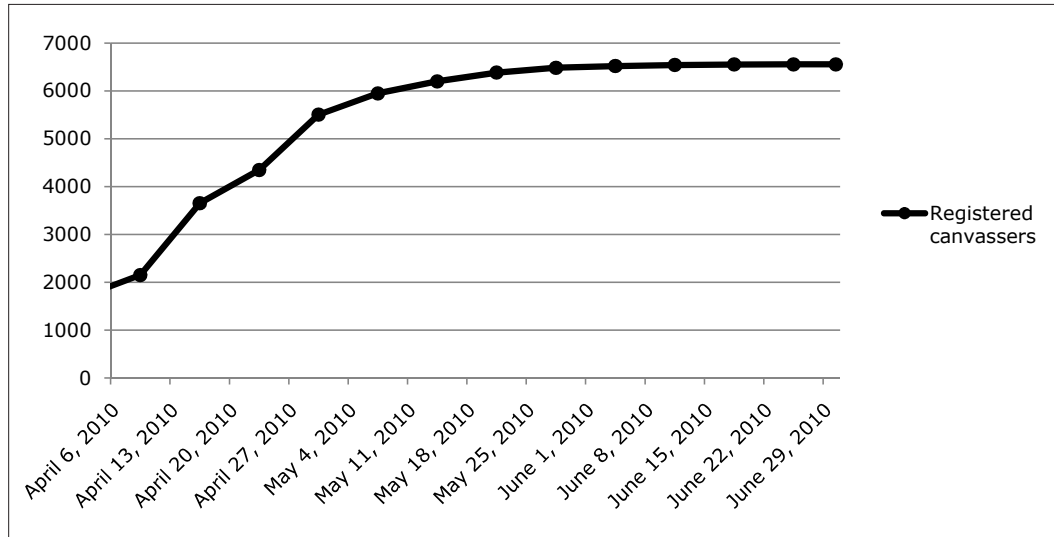
Elections BC registered 1,855 canvassers between March 4, 2010 and April 6, 2010 when the petition was issued. By the end of the petition period there were 6,556 registered canvassers. This is over 50% more than for any previous initiative petition. Despite the fact that almost half of all HST initiative petition canvasser applications were received during the first three weeks of April, most applications were processed within 48 hours.

Although Elections BC registered 6,556 canvassers, Elections BC received a total of 8,075 canvasser registration applications. The difference in applications received and canvassers registered was primarily due to duplicate and incomplete applications which added significantly to the workload of Elections BC.

Applications are required to be signed by both the applicant and the proponent. During April and May, Elections BC received hundreds of applications that had not first been submitted to the proponent for his approval and signature and therefore were incomplete and returned to the proponent. Elections BC also encountered numerous instances of multiple application forms being submitted for the same canvasser. Although applications that were not signed by the proponent, or were otherwise incomplete, could be identified early and set aside, each complete application had to be processed in order to determine whether it was a new application or a duplicate.

Elections BC will continue to review and improve canvasser registration processes so as to enhance efficiency and reduce the number of duplicate and incomplete canvasser applications.

Figure 3: Canvasser registrations



Canvassing period

The canvassing period begins with the issuance of the initiative petition. The HST initiative petition was issued to the proponent by the Chief Electoral Officer on April 6, 2010.

The proponent, with the assistance of registered canvassers, had 90 days from the date the petition was issued to gather signatures from 10% of the total number of eligible registered voters in each electoral district. The deadline for submitting the completed HST initiative petition to the Chief Electoral Officer was July 5, 2010.

In order to be eligible to sign the initiative petition an individual must have been a registered voter on the day the petition was issued. Individuals who registered to vote after April 6, 2010 were not eligible to sign the petition and were informed of this when they registered.

More than twice as many voter registrations and updates were received through the Elections BC Online Voter Registration website during the 60 days prior to the issuance of the petition than during the previous 60 days. Voter registrations and updates by telephone and on the website were steady in the final days leading up to the April 6, 2010 deadline.

Elections BC also noticed a significant increase in the number of registered voters updating their name or residential address during the canvassing period. The number of individuals who updated their voter registration information online increased 106% and the number of updates made by telephone was three times usual volumes.

Voters may only sign the petition for the electoral district in which they are a registered voter.

The proponent was issued a unique petition sheet for each electoral district in the province. It was the voter’s responsibility to ensure they were signing the petition sheet for the electoral district in which they were a registered voter. It is an offence to sign a petition more than once, and if a voter signed a petition sheet for the wrong electoral district, their signature was disqualified. To assist voters in determining their electoral district, canvassers may use electoral district maps, voting area maps or the Location Index, which is a list of every location in British Columbia and the electoral district where it is located. A copy of these products was provided to the proponent and they are also available on the Elections BC website.

A canvasser must witness each signature on the petition sheets they are responsible for to ensure that individuals sign the petition in the appropriate manner and only sign the petition once.

Petition submission

The HST initiative petition was submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer for verification and determination of its success or failure on June 30, 2010, 85 days after the petition was issued and prior to the end of the 90 day period in which signatures could be collected. The proponent claimed that the petition was signed by enough eligible individuals (signatories) in each electoral district to satisfy the requirements of the *Recall and Initiative Act*.

Figure 4: Online Voter Registration notification

Verification

From the date the petition was submitted, the Chief Electoral Officer had 42 days in which to determine whether the petition had been signed by at least 10% of the registered voters in each electoral district and met the requirements of the *Recall and Initiative Act* for the petition to be deemed successful. If at any point during the verification process the petition did not meet the threshold in any electoral district, verification would have been halted and the Chief Electoral Officer would have announced that the petition had failed.

Submission confirmation

Verification of the HST initiative petition began by confirming that the submitted petition contained enough signatures to potentially meet the 10% threshold in each electoral district.

A manual count of each petition sheet and signature line was conducted while ensuring petition sheets were filed correctly by electoral district. At the same time, staff identified petition lines that were incomplete, not in ink, or had not been witnessed by a canvasser, as any such lines were invalid.

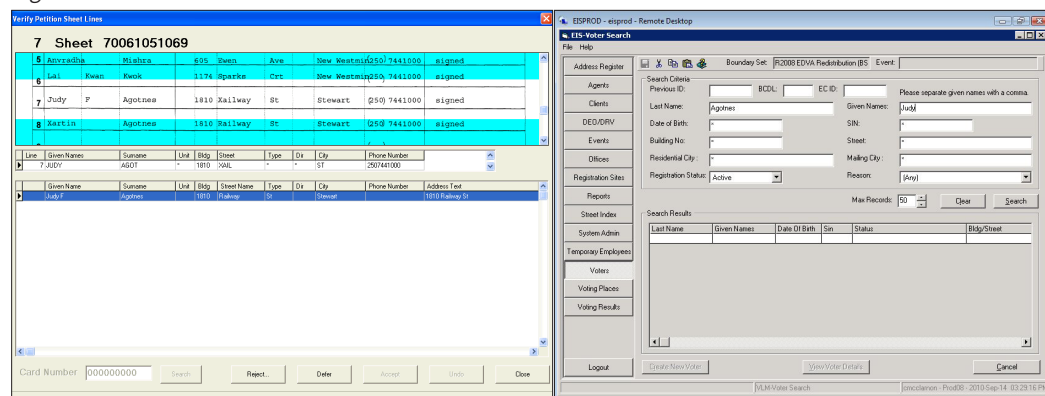
At the end of this stage on July 7, 2010, Elections BC confirmed that the submitted petition contained enough signatures to be potentially successful in each electoral district and authorized continuing to the next stage of the verification process.

Computer verification

The second stage of the verification process involved a validation of the canvassers who witnessed each petition sheet and a comparison of each signature line on the petition sheets against the voters list. Canvassers were validated to confirm that they were registered canvassers during the period the signatures were collected, and the comparison of the signature lines ensured that the signatories were registered voters for the electoral district for which they signed the HST initiative petition.

The petition sheets were scanned to create a digital copy of the petition for backup purposes in the event something happened to the original petition sheets. The sheets were then sent to a contractor to be data entered. The data entry permitted each signature line to be compared against the voters list electronically.

Figure 5: Verification software



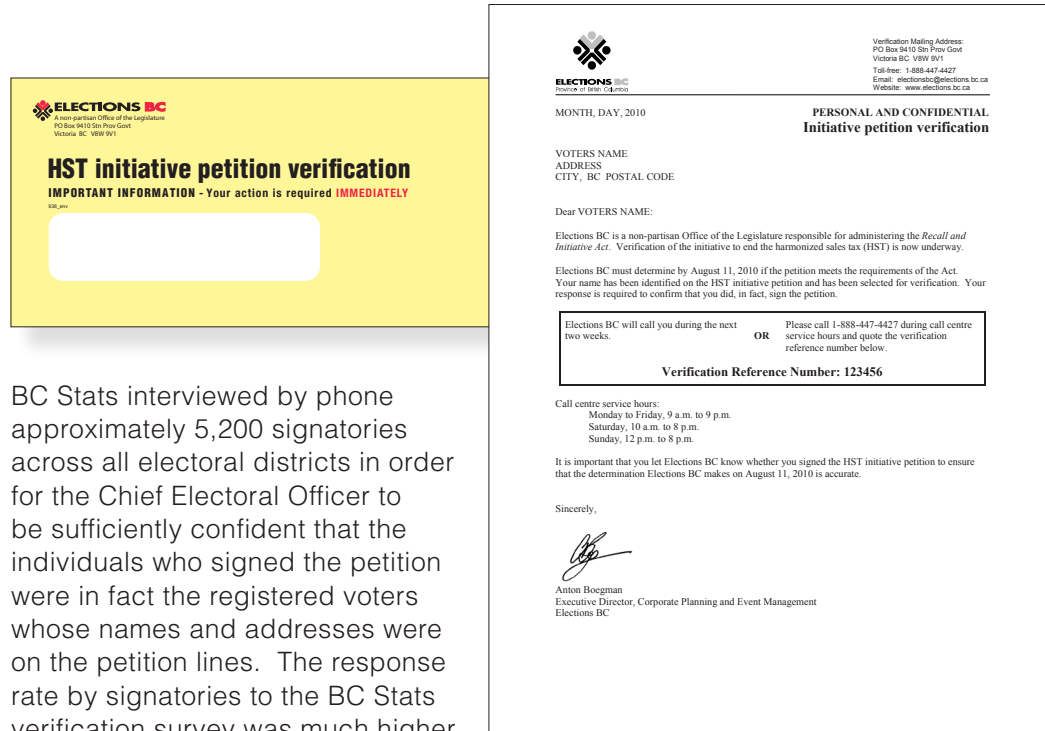
Signature lines that exactly matched a single record on the voters list for the appropriate electoral district were automatically accepted and counted towards the threshold for the purposes of this stage of verification. Any signature line that partially matched a record on the voters list for the appropriate electoral district, or matched more than one record for that electoral district, was reviewed by Elections BC staff and compared against the voters list for the appropriate electoral district for a final determination. Signature lines that did not match any record on the voters list for the appropriate electoral district were also reviewed by Elections BC staff. If Elections BC staff could not match a signature line with a voter on the voters list for the appropriate electoral district, it was not counted. The verification software also identified when an individual had signed the petition more than once.

Signatory verification

As part of the determination of whether the petition had been signed by enough valid signatories to meet the threshold in each electoral district, Elections BC also conducted a random sample of the signature lines on the petition to ensure the voters did, in fact, sign the petition.

This stage of verification was conducted by BC Stats. A statistically significant random sample of the signatories in each electoral district was contacted by telephone and mail and asked to confirm that they did sign the petition.

Figure 6: Initiative petition verification letter



BC Stats interviewed by phone approximately 5,200 signatories across all electoral districts in order for the Chief Electoral Officer to be sufficiently confident that the individuals who signed the petition were in fact the registered voters whose names and addresses were on the petition lines. The response rate by signatories to the BC Stats verification survey was much higher than typical surveys. The BC Stats survey enabled the Chief Electoral Officer to achieve a confidence level in the accuracy of the petition lines of over 99%, with a margin of error of +/- 2%. This level of confidence is higher than what is used in many published surveys, where a confidence level of 95% (or 19 times out of 20) is most common.

This signatory verification survey was conducted between July 8, 2010 and August 11, 2010 at the same time as the verification process was conducted by Elections BC staff on the balance of the petition.

Observers

Although not provided for in the *Recall and Initiative Act*, to ensure transparency and procedural fairness in the event that judicial review was requested, the Chief Electoral Officer authorized the proponent to have up to two observers present during the verification process. The Chief Electoral Officer also authorized the Liberal and NDP caucuses of the B.C. Legislature to each have up to two observers present. Observers watched the process to ensure verification was consistent and complied with the requirements of the *Recall and Initiative Act*. The observers also had the ability to listen to recordings of the interviews made by BC Stats as part of the signatory verification process. Observers were present throughout the verification process.

Observers are not scrutineers and may examine the process, but may not challenge or make objections to decisions of Elections BC staff. Observers swore an oath not to publicly disclose the proceedings they were observing.

Public information

In addition to publishing notice of approval in principle in the *British Columbia Gazette*, the *Recall and Initiative Act* requires the Chief Electoral Officer to provide public notice of an initiative petition’s approval in principle in at least one newspaper circulating in British Columbia. During the week of February 8, 2010, Elections BC published this notice in local newspapers across the province and also in those with provincial circulation.

An advertisement advising potential participants (voters who wished to sign the petition and individuals and groups who wished to conduct initiative petition advertising) of the rules and encouraging them to contact Elections BC for more information was published in newspapers across the province during the week of March 22, 2010.

Figure 7: Public notice

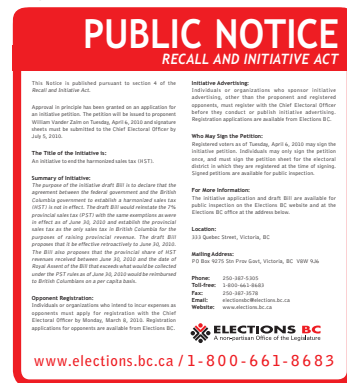
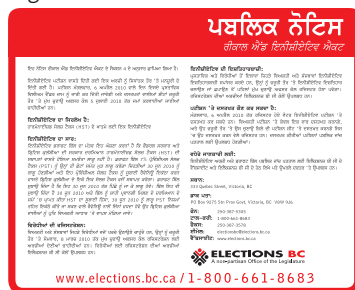


Figure 8: “Know the Rules” advertisement (Punjabi)



Both the public notice and the “Know the Rules” advertisement were translated into Cantonese, Mandarin and Punjabi and published in ethnic language newspapers. The public notice was also translated into Farsi.

Elections BC created an HST initiative petition page on its website to provide information about the petition for voters and media from a single authoritative and neutral source. The initiative web pages included petition and proponent information, a timeline of the key petition period milestones and a series of frequently asked questions which were updated throughout the initiative petition period. A list of registered canvassers was also available on the website, and was updated daily as applications were processed.

The HST initiative petition pages on the Elections BC website were visited 22,873 times during the initiative petition period (February 4, 2010–June 30, 2010).

Petition results

Summary of results

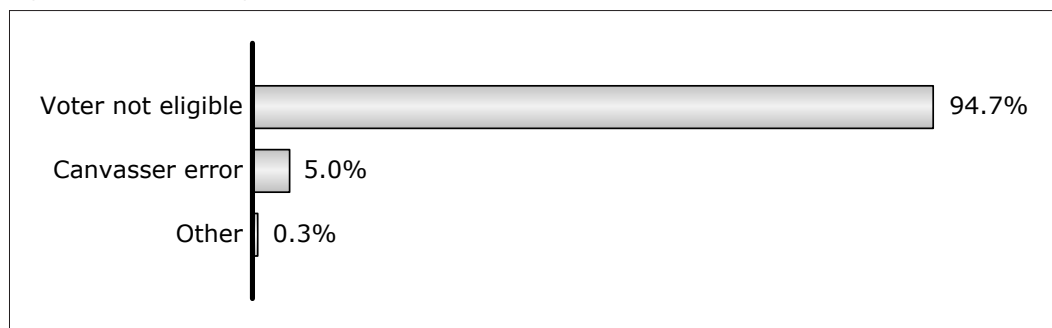
The following pages contain the verified results of the HST initiative petition. The results by electoral district table displays the number of registered voters in each electoral district as of April 6, 2010, the date on which the petition was issued; and the threshold, the number of valid signatures (10% of the number of registered voters) required in each electoral district for the petition to meet the requirements of the *Recall and Initiative Act*.

The table also presents the number of signatures submitted by the proponent for each electoral district as confirmed by Elections BC – these numbers differ from the number of signatures that the proponent claimed to submit in each district, as they reflect adjustments for counting errors and misfiling of petition sheets by the proponent.

The table also includes the number of signatures in each electoral district that were rejected and the number of signatures that were verified by Elections BC staff during the verification process and indicates whether or not the threshold was met in each electoral district.

Signatures were rejected during the verification process for a number of reasons. The majority of signatures were rejected because the voter was ineligible to sign the petition for the electoral district for which they signed (for example, the voter was not a registered voter or was registered in a different electoral district) or the petition line was illegible and could not be matched against a voter on the voters list. Any signatures beyond the first from a voter were also rejected. A smaller number of signatures were rejected because of canvasser errors, such as canvassing when not eligible, or failing to properly witness the signatures. A small number of signatures were rejected because they were not in ink, a requirement of Regulation, or the signature was missing or defaced.

Figure 9: Rejected signatures by reason



The signatory verification survey conducted by BC Stats established a weighted confirmation rate of 99.76%. This means that once differences in response rates by electoral district were accounted for, 99.76% of all signatories contacted by BC Stats confirmed that they signed the initiative petition. The 99% confidence interval lies between 99.33% and 99.86%. This means that if the signatory verification survey was repeated 100 times, in 99 cases the confirmation rate would fall between 99.33% and 99.86%. The results of the signatory verification survey were sufficient for the Chief Electoral Officer to be confident that the individuals who signed the petition were, in fact, the registered voters whose names and addresses were on the petition lines.

On the basis of all three stages of verification (submission confirmation, computer verification and signatory verification) and a review of the proponent’s initiative petition financing report, the Chief Electoral Officer determined on August 11, 2010 that the petition was in fact signed by at least 10% of the registered voters in each electoral district and that the proponent had complied with Part 4 of the *Recall and Initiative Act*.

On August 23, 2010, after the conclusion of the judicial review described on page 5, the Chief Electoral Officer forwarded a copy of the petition and draft Bill to the Select Standing Committee as required by section 10 of the *Recall and Initiative Act*.

During the verification process, Elections BC identified instances where it appeared an individual wrongfully signed the petition. Elections BC continues to investigate these matters.

Results by electoral district

Electoral district code	Electoral district	Voter count	Threshold	Submitted signatures	Rejected signatures	Verified signatories	Threshold met
ABM	Abbotsford-Mission	34,299	3,430	5,947	1,496	4,451	Yes
ABS	Abbotsford South	33,815	3,382	5,027	1,046	3,981	Yes
ABW	Abbotsford West	30,496	3,050	5,068	1,216	3,852	Yes
APR	Alberni-Pacific Rim	30,709	3,071	6,640	993	5,647	Yes
BDS	Boundary-Similkameen	28,738	2,874	10,540	1,828	8,712	Yes
BND	Burnaby-Deer Lake	34,268	3,427	5,863	1,335	4,528	Yes
BNE	Burnaby-Edmonds	34,668	3,467	7,078	1,874	5,204	Yes
BNL	Burnaby-Lougheed	35,426	3,543	7,175	1,292	5,883	Yes
BNN	Burnaby North	38,848	3,885	9,460	2,142	7,318	Yes
CBC	Cariboo-Chilcotin	20,679	2,068	8,914	2,390	6,524	Yes
CBN	Cariboo North	23,431	2,344	8,038	1,596	6,442	Yes
CHC	Chilliwack	35,763	3,577	8,974	1,998	6,976	Yes
CHH	Chilliwack-Hope	32,751	3,276	8,536	1,924	6,612	Yes
CLR	Columbia River-Revelstoke	23,858	2,386	8,877	1,951	6,926	Yes
CMX	Comox Valley	47,878	4,788	12,288	2,073	10,215	Yes
CQB	Coquitlam-Burke Mountain	32,247	3,225	5,963	1,197	4,766	Yes
CQM	Coquitlam-Maillardville	37,437	3,744	8,478	1,690	6,788	Yes
CWV	Cowichan Valley	41,571	4,158	8,826	1,167	7,659	Yes
DLN	Delta North	34,674	3,468	5,780	826	4,954	Yes
DLS	Delta South	34,095	3,410	10,942	2,522	8,420	Yes
ESR	Esquimalt-Royal Roads	37,338	3,734	10,375	1,988	8,387	Yes
FLA	Fort Langley-Aldergrove	43,753	4,376	9,559	1,243	8,316	Yes
FRN	Fraser-Nicola	21,586	2,159	9,361	2,909	6,452	Yes
JDF	Juan de Fuca	34,898	3,490	8,920	1,997	6,923	Yes
KAN	Kamloops-North Thompson	38,271	3,828	9,919	2,151	7,768	Yes
KAS	Kamloops-South Thompson	40,425	4,043	9,356	1,961	7,395	Yes
KLA	Kelowna-Lake Country	42,587	4,259	10,741	2,068	8,673	Yes
KMI	Kelowna-Mission	42,994	4,300	11,058	2,430	8,628	Yes
KOE	Kootenay East	29,114	2,912	9,372	1,685	7,687	Yes
KOW	Kootenay West	30,651	3,066	12,813	2,173	10,640	Yes
LLY	Langley	43,145	4,315	10,620	2,172	8,448	Yes
MRM	Maple Ridge-Mission	35,810	3,581	9,478	2,463	7,015	Yes
MRP	Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	36,920	3,692	9,110	1,863	7,247	Yes
NAN	Nanaimo	38,736	3,874	8,803	2,093	6,710	Yes
NCW	Nanaimo-North Cowichan	38,891	3,890	11,037	1,839	9,198	Yes
NEC	Nechako Lakes	16,145	1,615	4,308	1,220	3,088	Yes
NEL	Nelson-Creston	27,078	2,708	6,857	1,295	5,562	Yes
NEW	New Westminster	43,111	4,312	8,272	1,535	6,737	Yes
NOC	North Coast	15,251	1,526	4,127	1,345	2,782	Yes
NOI	North Island	39,299	3,930	10,320	2,040	8,280	Yes
NVL	North Vancouver-Lonsdale	37,698	3,770	7,177	1,801	5,376	Yes
NVS	North Vancouver-Seymour	37,065	3,707	7,175	1,443	5,732	Yes
OBG	Oak Bay-Gordon Head	38,047	3,805	8,755	1,489	7,266	Yes
PAQ	Parksville-Qualicum	40,630	4,063	11,468	2,105	9,363	Yes
PCN	Peace River North	22,952	2,296	7,403	2,717	4,686	Yes

Results by electoral district (continued)

Electoral district code	Electoral district	Voter count	Threshold	Submitted signatures	Rejected signatures	Verified signatories	Threshold met
PCS	Peace River South	17,028	1,703	5,345	1,576	3,769	Yes
PEN	Penticton	41,552	4,156	11,038	1,628	9,410	Yes
POC	Port Coquitlam	37,364	3,737	7,514	957	6,557	Yes
POM	Port Moody-Coquitlam	33,945	3,395	6,753	836	5,917	Yes
POR	Powell River-Sunshine Coast	36,237	3,624	11,681	1,810	9,871	Yes
PRM	Prince George-Mackenzie	32,427	3,243	6,913	1,142	5,771	Yes
PRV	Prince George-Valemount	34,270	3,427	7,273	1,256	6,017	Yes
RCC	Richmond Centre	42,783	4,279	7,355	2,091	5,264	Yes
RCE	Richmond East	42,366	4,237	7,160	1,733	5,427	Yes
RCS	Richmond-Steveston	42,463	4,247	7,817	1,663	6,154	Yes
SAN	Saanich North and the Islands	44,295	4,430	13,711	2,199	11,512	Yes
SAS	Saanich South	37,704	3,771	9,281	1,759	7,522	Yes
SHU	Shuswap	40,149	4,015	11,791	1,974	9,817	Yes
SKE	Skeena	20,679	2,068	7,110	1,592	5,518	Yes
SKN	Stikine	13,062	1,307	3,732	1,055	2,677	Yes
SRC	Surrey-Cloverdale	42,607	4,261	9,697	2,289	7,408	Yes
SRF	Surrey-Fleetwood	33,177	3,318	6,899	1,686	5,213	Yes
SRG	Surrey-Green Timbers	29,663	2,967	6,350	1,783	4,567	Yes
SRN	Surrey-Newton	30,773	3,078	6,455	2,233	4,222	Yes
SRP	Surrey-Panorama	39,761	3,977	7,238	1,841	5,397	Yes
SRT	Surrey-Tynehead	34,376	3,438	6,670	1,365	5,305	Yes
SWH	Surrey-Whalley	33,718	3,372	5,835	1,596	4,239	Yes
SWR	Surrey-White Rock	39,695	3,970	10,241	2,031	8,210	Yes
VFA	Vancouver-Fairview	41,783	4,179	8,506	2,040	6,466	Yes
VFC	Vancouver-False Creek	35,725	3,573	6,340	1,845	4,495	Yes
VFV	Vancouver-Fraserview	38,404	3,841	7,890	2,127	5,763	Yes
VHA	Vancouver-Hastings	38,591	3,860	7,653	2,004	5,649	Yes
VKE	Vancouver-Kensington	36,647	3,665	7,533	2,226	5,307	Yes
VKI	Vancouver-Kingsway	36,090	3,609	7,996	2,500	5,496	Yes
VLA	Vancouver-Langara	38,043	3,805	7,021	1,656	5,365	Yes
VMP	Vancouver-Mount Pleasant	37,859	3,786	9,146	3,291	5,855	Yes
VNP	Vancouver-Point Grey	39,785	3,979	8,689	2,414	6,275	Yes
VNQ	Vancouver-Quilchena	38,470	3,847	6,928	1,245	5,683	Yes
VNW	Vancouver-West End	35,123	3,513	7,473	1,786	5,687	Yes
VRM	Vernon-Monashee	45,206	4,521	12,696	2,501	10,195	Yes
VTB	Victoria-Beacon Hill	42,072	4,208	12,280	4,272	8,008	Yes
VTS	Victoria-Swan Lake	38,121	3,813	10,433	2,338	8,095	Yes
WCA	West Vancouver-Capilano	38,930	3,893	6,631	1,391	5,240	Yes
WSS	West Vancouver-Sea to Sky	34,861	3,487	6,651	1,766	4,885	Yes
WTK	Westside-Kelowna	41,879	4,188	11,360	2,422	8,938	Yes
Total		2,995,729	299,611	713,883	156,500	557,383	

Initiative petition financing reports

Introduction

Under the *Recall and Initiative Act*, the financial agent for authorized initiative petition participants must file an initiative petition financing report with the Chief Electoral Officer within 28 days after the end of the initiative petition period. Initiative petition participants include the proponent and any opponents registered under Part 4 of the Act. No applications to register as initiative petition opponents were filed with the Chief Electoral Officer in relation to the HST initiative petition.

Individuals and organizations that sponsored initiative petition advertising were required to register with Elections BC. Registered initiative petition advertising sponsors who sponsored initiative advertising with a value of \$500 or more were required to file initiative petition advertising disclosure reports within 28 days after the end of initiative petition period.

The filing deadline for the HST initiative petition financing reports was July 28, 2010.

Following are summaries of the proponent's initiative petition financing report and initiative petition advertising disclosure reports received by Elections BC. The summaries reflect the reports as filed and do not include subsequent amendments. After filing, Elections BC staff reviewed the reports for accuracy and completeness. The complete reports and any subsequent amendments are available for viewing on the Elections BC website for up to 10 years. Elections BC does not include cents in the summaries and, as a result, there may be small differences from the original reports due to rounding.

Initiative petition expenses limits

The base initiative petition expenses limit for the initiative petition proponent is \$0.25 for every registered voter on the voters list as of the date on which the petition is issued. This base amount was adjusted to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. There were 2,995,729 registered voters on the voters list on April 6, 2010. The expenses limit for the initiative proponent was \$921,448.30.

For initiative petition advertising sponsors, the expenses limit was \$5,000. The expenses limit applied to the value of initiative petition advertising conducted during the initiative petition period (February 4, 2010–June 30, 2010).

Registered political parties and constituency associations were prohibited from incurring initiative petition expenses, unless they registered with Elections BC as an initiative petition advertising sponsor.

Proponent

The initiative petition financing information in this report includes both total inflows and total outflows for the initiative petition proponent. Total inflows and total outflows may not be equal. This may occur when items are owned by the proponent prior to the initiative petition period, and therefore are reported as initiative expenses but not as inflows.

Contributions: an amount of money or the value of any property or services provided without compensation by way of donation, advance, deposit, discount or otherwise to an authorized participant in relation to an initiative petition.

Fundraising income: the portion of income from fundraising functions that is not reported as initiative petition contributions.

Other income: income related to the initiative petition from miscellaneous sources.

Loans received: the original amount of loans received for initiative petition expenses. Some or all of the loan may have been repaid.

Total outflows are segregated as follows:

Initiative petition expenses subject to the limits: the value of property or services used during the initiative petition period to promote or oppose, directly or indirectly, the initiative petition (e.g. advertising and campaign office expenses). The *Recall and Initiative Act* limits the amount of initiative petition expenses an initiative petition participant can incur during this period.

Initiative petition expenses not subject to the limits: initiative petition expenses specifically excluded from the initiative petition expenses limit (e.g. fees charged by the Chief Electoral Officer and printing of petition sheets). This type of expense is described in section 47 of the *Recall and Initiative Act*.

Other expenses: the value of goods or services used outside the initiative petition campaign period but in relation to the initiative petition.

Independent initiative advertising sponsors

The following definitions are relevant to initiative petition advertising sponsors:

Initiative petition advertising: advertising used during the initiative petition period to promote or oppose, directly or indirectly, the initiative petition or draft Bill.

Contributions: money provided to a sponsor of initiative petition advertising during the period beginning six months before the initiative petition was issued and ending at the end of the initiative petition period.

Amount of sponsor’s assets used: the value of the sponsor’s assets used to pay for initiative petition advertising. This amount does not include contributions referred to above.

Total value of initiative petition advertising sponsored: the market value of preparing and conducting initiative petition advertising during the initiative petition period (February 4, 2010 to June 30, 2010).

All initiative petition advertising sponsors must be registered. Under section 100 of the *Recall and Initiative Act*, an initiative petition advertising sponsor is not required to file a disclosure report if, during the initiative petition period, the advertising sponsored did not have a total value of \$500 or more.

The summaries of disclosure reports for initiative petition advertising sponsors who sponsored initiative petition advertising with a total value of \$500 or more in relation to the HST initiative petition are included in this report.

The following initiative petition advertising sponsors indicated that they did not sponsor initiative petition advertising with a value of \$500 or more:

Alberni District Teachers’ Union
Alberni-Pacific Rim Constituency Association BC NDP
B.C. Retired Teachers’ Association
BC Chamber of Commerce
BC NDP
BC Refed
Bell, Catherine
Beuthin, Darryn
British Columbia Government Retired Employees’ Association
British Columbia Teachers’ Federation
Burnaby North Constituency Association BC NDP
Burnaby-Lougheed Constituency Association BC NDP
Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, BC Division

Canadian Office & Professional Employees Union Local 378
Canadian Union of Postal Workers
Canadian Union of Public Employees - BC Division
Cariboo North Constituency Association BC NDP
Cariboo-Chilcotin Constituency Association BC NDP
Christian Heritage Party Skeena-Bulkley Valley Electoral District Association
Comox Valley Constituency Association BC NDP
Coquitlam-Maillardville Constituency Association BC NDP
Dalton, Marc
Delta North Constituency Association BC NDP
Dhillon, Balwinder
Fraser-Nicola Constituency Association BC NDP
Health Sciences Association of British Columbia
Kamloops Thompson Teachers' Association
Kamloops-North Thompson Constituency Association BC NDP
Kamloops-South Thompson Constituency Association BC NDP
Kelowna-Lake Country Constituency Association BC NDP
Laitinen, James
Nanaimo-Alberni NDP Riding Association
Nanaimo-North Cowichan Constituency Association BC NDP
Oak Bay-Gordon Head Constituency Association BC NDP
Parksville-Qualicum Constituency Association BC NDP
Powell River District Teachers' Association
Powell River-Sunshine Coast Constituency Association BC NDP
Reagan, Kyle
Richmond Centre Constituency Association BC NDP
Richmond East Constituency Association BC NDP
Richmond-Steveston Constituency Association BC NDP
Saanich North and the Islands Constituency Association BC NDP
Saanich Teachers' Association
Seniors on Guard for Medicare
Sultan, Ralph
Surrey Teachers' Association
Surrey-Green Timbers Constituency Association BC NDP
Surrey-Whalley Constituency Association BC NDP
Taylor, Elaine Patricia
United Steelworkers Local 1-425
Vancouver Island North NDP Electoral District Association
Vancouver-Hastings Constituency Association BC NDP

Proponent

Proponent	William Vander Zalm
	\$
Inflows	
Contributions	
Individuals	21,618
Corporations	10,972
Unincorporated businesses/commercial organizations	3,643
Trade unions	13,165
Non-profit organizations	18,686
Other identifiable contributors	2,459
Anonymous contributions	2,261
Total contributions	72,804
Fundraising income	-
Other income	44,934
Loans received	-
Total inflows	117,738
Outflows	
Initiative petition expenses subject to limits	104,348
Initiative petition expenses not subject to limits	4,565
Other expenses	-
Total outflows	108,913
Initiative petition expenses limit	921,448

Independent initiative advertising sponsors

Initiative petition advertising sponsor	Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations (COSCO), The	Bennett, Bill	Smith, Andrea
	\$	\$	\$
Inflows			
Contributions			
Individuals	-	-	-
Corporations	-	-	-
Unincorporated businesses/commercial organizations	-	-	-
Trade unions	-	-	-
Non-profit organizations	-	-	-
Other identifiable contributors	-	892	-
Anonymous contributions	-	-	-
Total contributions	-	892	-
Amount of sponsor's assets used	4,419	-	675
Total inflows	4,419	892	675
Total value of initiative petition advertising sponsored	4,419	892	675
Initiative petition advertising expenses limit	5,000	5,000	5,000

Elections BC expenses

The following expenses were incurred by Elections BC in administering the HST initiative petition.


Expense categories	Combined totals for fiscal years 2009/2010 and 2010/2011
Salaries	\$230,680
Professional services	493,746
Information systems	191,861
Advertising and publications	178,425
General office expenses	14,077
Office rent/maintenance	8,046
Total	\$1,116,835
<hr/>	
Total number of registered voters on April 6, 2010	2,995,729
<hr/>	
Cost per registered voter	\$0.37

Appendices

Appendix A: Initiative petition cover sheet

INITIATIVE PETITION COVER SHEET			925A (10/01)
PETITION TITLE An initiative to end the harmonized sales tax (HST)			
PETITION NUMBER IP-2010-002	PETITION ISSUE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) 2010/04/06	PETITION DUE DATE (YYYY/MM/DD) 2010/07/05	
INITIATIVE PETITION SUMMARY			
<p>The purpose of the initiative draft Bill is to declare that the agreement between the federal government and the British Columbia government to establish a harmonized sales tax (HST) is not in effect. The draft Bill would reinstate the 7% provincial sales tax (PST) with the same exemptions as were in effect as of June 30, 2010 and establish the provincial sales tax as the only sales tax in British Columbia for the purposes of raising provincial revenue. The draft Bill proposes that it be effective retroactively to June 30, 2010. The Bill also proposes that the provincial share of HST revenues received between June 30, 2010 and the date of Royal Assent of the Bill that exceeds what would be collected under the PST rules as of June 30, 2010 would be reimbursed to British Columbians on a per capita basis.</p>			
PROPONENT		FINANCIAL AGENT	
NAME: William Vander Zalm	NAME: Patricia Ann Storey	ADDRESS: 370 East Broadway, P. O. Box 95023	
ADDRESS: 3553 Arthur Drive	ADDRESS: 370 East Broadway, P. O. Box 95023	CITY/POSTAL CODE: Vancouver BC V5T 4T8	
CITY/POSTAL CODE: Ladner, BC V4K 3N2	CITY/POSTAL CODE: Vancouver BC V5T 4T8	PHONE: 604-800-2461	
PHONE: 604-946-1774	PHONE: 604-800-2461	FAX: ----	
FAX: 604-946-1981	FAX: ----	EMAIL: finance@fighthst.com	
EMAIL: billvanderzalm@dccnet.com	EMAIL: finance@fighthst.com		
NOTE TO SIGNERS			
Voters may only sign a petition once.			
Voters must only sign for the electoral district in which they are registered at the time of signing.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Print your full name clearly in the space provided on attached petition sheet. If your name or address is unreadable, your signature will not be counted • Provide your full residential address where registered as a voter, or a physical description of the location if there is not an address. Postal addresses will not be accepted. Do not include PO Box #s or other postal information • Provide your phone number as you may be contacted to confirm that you signed the petition • It is illegal to sign any person's name other than your own • If you wish to have your residential address and phone number obscured from public inspection, check the box to the right of your signature 			
NOTE TO CANVASSER			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petitions must be signed in ink • Only one row should be used for each signature collected • Each row must be completed in full. Phone number is not mandatory • Only canvassers registered with the Chief Electoral Officer may circulate petition sheets • It is illegal for a canvasser to knowingly make a false or misleading statement about the petition • It is illegal for canvassers to receive any payment or other inducement for gathering signatures 			

Appendix B: Initiative petition sheet

 ELECTIONS BC <small>A non-partisan Office of the Legislature</small>		INITIATIVE PETITION SHEET				916 (10/01)			
		PETITION TITLE An initiative to end the harmonized sales tax (HST)				PETITION NUMBER IP-2010-002			
				ELECTORAL DISTRICT Abbotsford-Mission		ED CODE ABM			
NOTE TO SIGNERS Be sure to read the attached cover sheet before signing this petition. You may be contacted to confirm that you signed this petition. Use the residential address where you are registered as a voter under the <i>Election Act</i> . Postal addresses will not be accepted.									
PLEASE PRINT We, the undersigned, declare our support of this petition. We are registered voters of the above-named electoral district, are qualified to sign this petition and have not previously signed.									
e.g.	FIRST NAME		MIDDLE NAME (S)		LAST NAME		SIGNATURE	I request that my address and phone number be obscured from public inspection.	
	APT	BLDG	STREET NAME	TYPE	DIR.	CITY			PHONE
	201	12455	GRANDVILLE	ST		VANCOUVER	604-123-4567	<i>G Reynolds</i>	
1	FIRST NAME		MIDDLE NAME (S)		LAST NAME		SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	APT	BLDG	STREET NAME	TYPE	DIR.	CITY	PHONE		
2	FIRST NAME		MIDDLE NAME (S)		LAST NAME		SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	APT	BLDG	STREET NAME	TYPE	DIR.	CITY	PHONE		
3	FIRST NAME		MIDDLE NAME (S)		LAST NAME		SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	APT	BLDG	STREET NAME	TYPE	DIR.	CITY	PHONE		
4	FIRST NAME		MIDDLE NAME (S)		LAST NAME		SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	APT	BLDG	STREET NAME	TYPE	DIR.	CITY	PHONE		
5	FIRST NAME		MIDDLE NAME (S)		LAST NAME		SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	APT	BLDG	STREET NAME	TYPE	DIR.	CITY	PHONE		
6	FIRST NAME		MIDDLE NAME (S)		LAST NAME		SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	APT	BLDG	STREET NAME	TYPE	DIR.	CITY	PHONE		
7	FIRST NAME		MIDDLE NAME (S)		LAST NAME		SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	APT	BLDG	STREET NAME	TYPE	DIR.	CITY	PHONE		
8	FIRST NAME		MIDDLE NAME (S)		LAST NAME		SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	APT	BLDG	STREET NAME	TYPE	DIR.	CITY	PHONE		
9	FIRST NAME		MIDDLE NAME (S)		LAST NAME		SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	APT	BLDG	STREET NAME	TYPE	DIR.	CITY	PHONE		
10	FIRST NAME		MIDDLE NAME (S)		LAST NAME		SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	APT	BLDG	STREET NAME	TYPE	DIR.	CITY	PHONE		
I declare that I am a registered canvasser of this petition and that each signature on this page was signed in my presence, was not obtained through fraud, deceit or misrepresentation and was obtained by me on the canvass date noted below. To the best of my knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person whose name it purports to be and the person who signed the petition was qualified to do so.									
ELECTIONS BC - OFFICE USE ONLY			NAME OF CANVASSER (PRINT)				CANVASSER: You must sign and date the petition sheets daily. Knowingly making a false declaration is an offence.		
			SIGNATURE OF CANVASSER						YYYY

Appendix C: Draft Bill

Title:

HST Extinguishment Act

Preamble:

Whereas a Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) combining the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) with the federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) as contemplated by the Governments of British Columbia and Canada contravenes Section 92, Article 2, of the Constitution Act 1867, which states:

92. In each Province the Legislature may exclusively make Laws in relation to Matters coming within the Classes of Subjects next hereinafter enumerated; that is to say,

2. Direct Taxation within the Province in order to the raising of a Revenue for Provincial Purposes.

And whereas the people of British Columbia, as expressed in the Citizen Initiative Petition against the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) in British Columbia, wish to extinguish the tax, therefore;

Part I

(1) The Agreement titled “*The Comprehensive Integrated Tax Coordination Agreement*” between The Government of British Columbia and The Government of Canada establishing an HST in British Columbia is hereby extinguished and of no force or effect whatsoever.

(2) For greater clarity, the HST is hereby extinguished in British Columbia.

Part II

(1) A Provincial Sales Tax (PST) of 7% with the same applications and exemptions as at June 30th 2010 shall be reinstated as the only sales tax in British Columbia for the raising of a Revenue for Provincial Purposes.

Part III

(1) This Act shall be effective retroactively as of June 30th 2010.

(2) Any HST revenues owing to or received by the Provincial Government between the retroactive effective date of this Act and the actual date of Royal Assent, which are over and above the original PST amount as it would previously have been applied, shall be reimbursed to all British Columbians on a per capita basis.

Appendix D: Public notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

RECALL AND INITIATIVE ACT

This Notice is published pursuant to section 4 of the *Recall and Initiative Act*.

Approval in principle has been granted on an application for an initiative petition. The petition will be issued to proponent William Vander Zalm on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 and signature sheets must be submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer by July 5, 2010.

The Title of the Initiative is:

An initiative to end the harmonized sales tax (HST).

Summary of Initiative:

The purpose of the initiative draft Bill is to declare that the agreement between the federal government and the British Columbia government to establish a harmonized sales tax (HST) is not in effect. The draft Bill would reinstate the 7% provincial sales tax (PST) with the same exemptions as were in effect as of June 30, 2010 and establish the provincial sales tax as the only sales tax in British Columbia for the purposes of raising provincial revenue. The draft Bill proposes that it be effective retroactively to June 30, 2010. The Bill also proposes that the provincial share of HST revenues received between June 30, 2010 and the date of Royal Assent of the Bill that exceeds what would be collected under the PST rules as of June 30, 2010 would be reimbursed to British Columbians on a per capita basis.

Opponent Registration:

Individuals or organizations who intend to incur expenses as opponents must apply for registration with the Chief Electoral Officer by Monday, March 8, 2010. Registration applications for opponents are available from Elections BC.

Initiative Advertising:

Individuals or organizations who sponsor initiative advertising, other than the proponent and registered opponents, must register with the Chief Electoral Officer before they conduct or publish initiative advertising. Registration applications are available from Elections BC.

Who May Sign the Petition:

Registered voters as of Tuesday, April 6, 2010 may sign the initiative petition. Individuals may only sign the petition once, and must sign the petition sheet for the electoral district in which they are registered at the time of signing. Signed petitions are available for public inspection.

For More Information:

The initiative application and draft Bill are available for public inspection on the Elections BC website and at the Elections BC office at the address below.

Location:

333 Quebec Street, Victoria, BC

Mailing Address:

PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9J6

Phone: 250-387-5305

Toll-free: 1-800-661-8683

Fax: 250-387-3578

Email: electionsbc@elections.bc.ca

Website: www.elections.bc.ca



www.elections.bc.ca / 1-800-661-8683

INITIATIVE PETITION

KNOW THE RULES

If you plan to participate in the initiative campaign, it's important that you know the rules.

- The *Recall and Initiative Act* allows registered voters to propose new laws or changes to existing laws.
- On Tuesday, April 6, 2010, petition sheets for the initiative to end the harmonized sales tax (HST) will be issued to the proponent, William Vander Zalm.
- The proponent has 90 days to collect signatures from at least 10% of the registered voters in each of the province's 85 electoral districts. The petition must be returned to the Chief Electoral Officer by Monday, July 5, 2010.
- To sign an initiative petition, a person must be a registered voter on April 6, 2010 and must only sign the petition for the electoral district in which they are currently registered.
- An individual may only sign an initiative petition once.
- Only registered canvassers may collect signatures.
- Initiative advertising may only be conducted by the proponent or a registered advertising sponsor.



Elections BC is a non-partisan Office of the Legislature
responsible for administering the *Election Act* and the *Recall and Initiative Act*.

www.elections.bc.ca / 1-800-661-8683

Appendix E: Signatory verification letter



Verification Mailing Address:
 PO Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt
 Victoria BC V8W 9V1
 Toll-free: 1-888-447-4427
 Email: electionsbc@elections.bc.ca
 Website: www.elections.bc.ca

MONTH, DAY, 2010

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
Initiative petition verification

VOTERS NAME
 ADDRESS
 CITY, BC POSTAL CODE

Dear VOTERS NAME:

Elections BC is a non-partisan Office of the Legislature responsible for administering the *Recall and Initiative Act*. Verification of the initiative to end the harmonized sales tax (HST) is now underway.

Elections BC must determine by August 11, 2010 if the petition meets the requirements of the Act. Your name has been identified on the HST initiative petition and has been selected for verification. Your response is required to confirm that you did, in fact, sign the petition.

Elections BC will call you during the next two weeks. **OR** Please call 1-888-447-4427 during call centre service hours and quote the verification reference number below.
Verification Reference Number: 123456

Call centre service hours:
 Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
 Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Sunday, 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

It is important that you let Elections BC know whether you signed the HST initiative petition to ensure that the determination Elections BC makes on August 11, 2010 is accurate.

Sincerely,

Anton Boegman
 Executive Director, Corporate Planning and Event Management
 Elections BC

Appendix F: Glossary

Advertising	Advertising is any public promotional material including, but not limited to, leaflets, lawn signs, billboards, brochures, buttons, badges, websites, newspapers, radio, television, newsletters and public address systems.
Approval in principle	Approval in principle is when the Chief Electoral Officer has determined that the application and draft Bill meet the requirements of the <i>Recall and Initiative Act</i> . The Chief Electoral Officer notifies the proponent that approval in principle will be granted and that a petition will be issued.
Authorized participant	The authorized participants for an initiative petition are the proponent of the petition and registered opponents and opponent groups.
British Columbia Gazette	The <i>British Columbia Gazette</i> is published by the Queen's Printer. Part I of the Gazette is published weekly and contains legal and official notices and proclamations. Part II is published every two weeks and contains the full text of all new Regulations.
Canvasser	A registered voter who volunteers to assist a proponent by canvassing for signatures on an initiative petition. Canvassers must be registered with the Chief Electoral Officer prior to canvassing for signatures, and must not accept any pay or other inducement for canvassing.
Chief Electoral Officer	An Officer of the Legislature. The Chief Electoral Officer is responsible for the administration of the <i>Recall and Initiative Act</i> .
Computer verification	The second verification phase, during which canvassers are validated and each line of the petition is compared against the voters list, electronically.
Conduct	Conducting advertising means to publish or sponsor initiative advertising. Publish means the dissemination of initiative advertising through various media: print, electronic (radio, television and websites) and public address systems.

Independent initiative advertising sponsor	A sponsor is an individual or organization who pays for initiative advertising to be conducted or who has initiative advertising conducted on their behalf, or who receives the services of conducting initiative advertising without charge as a contribution. Other than a proponent or opponent, a sponsor of initiative advertising must be registered with the Chief Electoral Officer.
Initiative	A proposed law.
Initiative advertising	Advertising used during an initiative petition period to promote or oppose, directly or indirectly, the initiative petition or draft Bill.
Initiative petition	A petition to have a proposed law or change to an existing law introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
Initiative petition contribution	An initiative petition contribution is an amount of money or the value of any property or services provided, without compensation by way of donation, advance, deposit, discount or otherwise to an authorized participant at any time in relation to an initiative petition.
Initiative petition expense	An initiative petition expense is the value of property or services used during an initiative petition period to promote or oppose, directly or indirectly, an initiative petition or draft Bill.
Initiative petition opponents/ opponent groups	Individuals and organizations who oppose an initiative petition and for whom a financial agent has been designated by the Chief Electoral Officer. An opponent group is one or more individuals and/ or organizations that have the same financial agent. For the purposes of initiative petition financing and communications, this includes individuals or organizations who intend to become opponents or who were opponents.
Initiative petition period	The period starting on the day an initiative petition application is approved in principle by the Chief Electoral Officer and ending either 90 days from the date on which the petition was issued by the Chief Electoral Officer, or on the day on which the petition is submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer, if earlier.
Initiative petition proponent	The registered voter who applied for the issuance of an initiative petition. For the purposes of initiative petition financing and initiative advertising, an initiative proponent includes an individual who intends to become a proponent or who was a proponent.

Initiative vote	If the Select Standing Committee refers a successful initiative petition and draft Bill to the Chief Electoral Officer, the Chief Electoral Officer must hold an initiative vote under the <i>Recall and Initiative Act</i> .
Observer	An individual permitted by the Chief Electoral Officer to observe the verification of an initiative petition.
Opponent	See Initiative petition opponents/opponent groups.
Proponent	See Initiative petition proponent.
<i>Recall and Initiative Act</i>	Legislation that establishes the recall and initiative processes in B.C. The Act was passed in 1994.
Select Standing Committee	At the commencement of the first session of each Parliament, the committee of selection appointed under the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly must appoint a Select Standing Committee on Legislative Initiatives for the purposes of the <i>Recall and Initiative Act</i> .
Signatory	An individual who signs an initiative petition.
Signatory verification	The third verification phase, during which a random sample of individuals who signed the petition are contacted to confirm that they did sign the petition in order for the Chief Electoral Officer to be sufficiently confident in the accuracy of the petition.
Submission confirmation	The first verification phase, during which a manual count of petition sheets and signature lines is conducted in order to confirm that the submitted petition contains enough signatures to potentially meet the 10% threshold in each electoral district.
Verification	A process by which the Chief Electoral Officer determines whether the petition has been signed by at least 10% of the total registered voters in each electoral district. The three phases of the verification process are: Submission Confirmation, Computer Verification and Signatory Verification

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