

ELECTIONS BC

News Release

For Immediate Release

Date: February 21, 2003

Recall Petition to be issued for the Electoral District of Victoria-Beacon Hill

Victoria - Chief Electoral Officer Harry Neufeld today approved an application for a petition to recall Jeff Bray, MLA for Victoria-Beacon Hill. The proponent of the recall campaign is Sybil Rowe.

Neufeld said, "The petition will be issued Friday, February 28, 2003, and at that time, registered canvassers may begin collecting signatures. The petition must be returned to this office no later than April 29, 2003."

In Victoria-Beacon Hill 36,775 voters were registered to vote on May 16, 2001. As a result, 14,711 or more signatures are required on a recall petition. The proponent and the Member are each limited to expenditures of \$30,720.13.

After a petition is returned, Elections BC has 42 days in which to verify the signatures. The Chief Electoral Officer cannot make a final determination as to the success of a recall effort until the financial report of the proponent is reviewed. The financial report must be filed with the Chief Electoral Officer within 28 days after the end of the recall petition period.

In the event of a successful recall, a by-election must be called within 90 days. The recalled Member can run as a candidate in the by-election.

British Columbia is the only jurisdiction in Canada with recall legislation. The *Recall and Initiative Act* received Royal Assent in July of 1994, and was brought into force in February of 1995.

The Act states that if more than 40% of the registered voters, who were eligible to vote for a particular Member when he or she was elected, sign a recall petition within the 60-day canvassing period, and the proponent has complied with the recall financing provisions, that MLA's seat becomes vacant. The Act also sets out rules regarding contributions and expenditures.

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Individuals or organizations, other than the proponent and Member, who intend to sponsor recall advertising during the recall petition period must register with the Chief Electoral Officer. Recall advertising sponsors must file advertising disclosure reports with the Chief Electoral Officer within 28 days after the recall petition period.

The *Recall and Initiative Act* is administered by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer. Elections BC is a non-partisan Office of the Legislature, and is responsible for the impartial administration of provincial elections and referendums, recalls and initiatives, voter registration and voter education.

PROPONENT'S OPINION OF WHY THE RECALL OF THE MEMBER IS WARRANTED:

“Voters need not wait until the next election to rid themselves of an incompetent, dishonest, unresponsive or irresponsible representative.” – 1993 Report of Select Standing Committee

Victoria-Beacon Hill MLA Jeff Bray should be recalled because he misled voters during the last election campaign. Since the election he has failed to represent the wishes of his constituents.

NOTE: THIS STATEMENT HAS NOT BEEN EDITED OR ALTERED IN ANY WAY BY ELECTIONS BC.

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For more information:

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