

# STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

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**DATE:** February 16, 2023

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Maureen Connelly, Corporate Officer/Manager of Legislative Services

**SUBJECT:** Campaign Financing Disclosure Statements for 2022 General Local Election- Failure to File

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None.

## RECOMMENDATION:

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated February 16, 2023 from the Corporate Officer/Manager of Legislative Services titled "Campaign Financing Disclosure Statements for 2022 General Local Election- Failure to File."

## PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information as required by the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* as it relates to a candidate's requirement to file a disclosure statement with Elections BC.

## BACKGROUND:

Under the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act* ("LECFA"), Elections BC is responsible for administering the campaign financing provisions for local elections. They oversee campaign financing disclosure requirements, conduct investigations, and enforce the campaign financing provisions set out in LECFA. LECFA requires that all candidates file a campaign financing disclosure statement with Elections BC. A disclosure statement includes information on all campaign contributions, election expenses, transfers, surplus campaign funds and other transactions related to the campaign.

Section 47 of LECFA requires that candidates and elector organizations file a campaign financing disclosure statement within 90 days after general voting day of the election. Disclosure statements may be filed for another 30 days but is subject to a \$500 late filing fee. The last day to meet this legislative requirement was February 13, 2023. Alternatively, candidates may apply to the Supreme Court, requesting relief from the responsibility to file.

On February 16, 2023 notice was received by the Chief Election Officer from Elections BC that Cameron Stolz, candidate for the Office of Councillor in the 2022 general local election did not file a campaign financing disclosure statement by February 13, 2023 which is last day of the 120-day filing period:

Those candidates who fail to file by the end of the late filing period and pay the penalty, are disqualified from being nominated or elected to Prince George City Council, the council of another BC municipality,

regional district board, or board of school trustees, until after the next general local election in 2026. The list of disqualified candidates is maintained by Elections BC and is available on their website.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

Section 61 of LECFA requires the Chief Election Officer of a municipality to prepare and present a report at an open Council meeting “as soon as practicable” after receiving a notice from Elections BC. This report on a candidate’s failure to submit a campaign financing disclosure statement is presented for Council’s information in order to satisfy that legislative requirement.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Maureen Connelly, Corporate Officer/  
Manager, Legislative Services (Chief Election Officer)

**APPROVED:**

Adam Davey, Acting City Manager

Meeting Date: 2023/02/27