

## Recall Petition to be Issued for Oak Bay-Gordon Head

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 30, 2010

**VICTORIA** - Acting Chief Electoral Officer Craig James today approved an application for a petition to recall the Honourable Ida Chong, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Oak Bay-Gordon Head. The proponent of the recall is Michael Roy Hayes.

James said, "The petition will be issued on Monday, December 6, 2010, and at that time, registered canvassers may begin collecting signatures. The petition must be returned to this office no later than Friday, February 4, 2011."

In Oak Bay-Gordon Head, 38,419 voters were registered to vote on May 12, 2009. Registered canvassers will have 60 days to collect 15,368 or more valid signatures on the recall petition. The expenses limit for the proponent and the Member is \$35,938.72.

Elections BC has 42 days from the date the petition pages are submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer to verify that those who signed the petition were entitled to do so. The Chief Electoral Officer cannot make a final determination as to the success of the recall petition until the financial report of the proponent is reviewed and it is determined that the proponent did not exceed the expenses limit. 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 petition, the recalled Member's seat becomes vacant and a by-election must be called within 90 days. The recalled Member can run as a candidate in the by-election.

### **Proponent's opinion of why the recall of the Member is warranted:**

I am proposing the recall of Oak Bay-Gordon Head Member of the Legislative Assembly, Ida Chong, because she supported the deceptive introduction of the Harmonized Sales Tax and refuses to represent the clear wishes of her constituents, in the Legislative Assembly.

During the two thousand and nine election, the Premier and Finance Minister stated that the Harmonized Sales Tax was NOT on their agenda, and British Columbia voters re-elected them significantly on that assurance. Only seventy two days later, British Columbia Liberals, with NO public consultation, debate or enabling legislation, implemented this tax through an "Order in Council". The successful Fight-Harmonized Sales Tax Initiative Petition campaign to repeal the Harmonized Sales Tax was an undeniable message to Ms. Chong, but was without effect.

Ms. Chong supports a costly Harmonized Sales Tax referendum (over thirty million dollars!) more than a year later, creating economic uncertainty, harming businesses and consumers.

Oak Bay-Gordon Head voters deserve honesty and accountability from elected representatives. A successful Recall unequivocally tells this, and future governments, that they must openly and fairly represent those who elected them.

**NOTE: Elections BC has not altered the wording of this statement in any way.**

For more information, visit the Elections BC website at

[www.elections.bc.ca/index.php/referenda-recall-initiative/recall/rp-obg-2010-002/](http://www.elections.bc.ca/index.php/referenda-recall-initiative/recall/rp-obg-2010-002/).

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Attachments: Fast Facts - Recall

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Elections BC is a non-partisan Office of the Legislature responsible for the administration of the *Election Act*, *Recall and Initiative Act*, and conduct of referenda under the *Referendum Act*.

**Fast Facts - Recall**

- The *Recall and Initiative Act* came into force in 1995
- Under the Act, recall is a process that allows registered voters to remove their Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from office between elections
- Eighteen months must elapse following General Voting Day for the previous election (May 12, 2009) before a recall application can be made
- The Chief Electoral Officer has approved 20 recall petitions since 1995; none have been successful
  - Sixteen petitions were not returned to Elections BC by the deadline
  - Four petitions were returned to Elections BC by the deadline
    - Two petitions proceeded to the verification process
      - Paul Reitsma, MLA, Parksville-Qualicum resigned during the verification process of the 1998 recall petition against him; verification stopped at that point
      - One petition continued through the full verification process - Val Roddick, MLA, Delta South (2002); verification determined that insufficient valid signatures had been obtained
- When a recall petition is issued, the proponent has 60 days to collect signatures of more than 40% of the voters who were, on the date of the last election of the Member, registered voters in the Member's electoral district and who are still registered voters in British Columbia
- Only voters who were registered in the electoral district of Oak Bay-Gordon Head on May 12, 2009 are eligible to sign the recall petition
- There were 38,419 registered voters in the Oak Bay-Gordon Head electoral district at the May 12, 2009 General Election
- The signature threshold for Oak Bay-Gordon Head is 15,368
- Petition sheets must be submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer by February 4, 2011
- The Honourable Ida Chong, MLA, Oak Bay-Gordon Head received 11,877 votes, or 46.53 % of total valid votes, in the 2009 General Election
- The proponent can be assisted by canvassers
- Canvassers must be registered with Elections BC prior to collecting signatures
- The proponent and the Member have equal expenses limits of \$35,938.72

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- Any individual or organization, other than the proponent and the MLA, who sponsors recall advertising must register with Elections BC
  - There are no spending limits on recall advertising
  - Recall financing reports must be submitted to Elections BC within 28 days after the end of the recall petition period.