



November 29, 2018

Mayor Kennedy Stewart and City Council
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 1V4

Sent via email.

Dear Mayor Stewart and City Council,

Re: Property Taxation Shift

On behalf of the twenty-two members of the Vancouver BIA Partnership, we are writing to request that Mayor and Council fulfill its collective promise to help the tens of thousands of small businesses in the city. As you deliberate on budget changes, we request that you include and initiate a shift of 2% of the fixed levy, to be put into effect for 2019.

It is within your mandate as municipal politicians to make this shift and give a measure of relief to Vancouver's small business sector. It is important to note that the last shift was in 2012, and since that time over the past seven years, the following has occurred:

1. The tax levy has increased from \$601,400,000 to \$753,371,000 or 25%.
2. The number of residential properties has increased by 15,535 properties.
3. The number of business properties has increased by 547 properties.
4. The above growth pattern is a 27:1 residential to commercial growth ratio.
5. The ongoing relative decline in commercial properties is unable to shoulder the ever growing municipal budgets.
6. Seven (7) percent of the properties in Vancouver are commercial and being asked to pay 45% of the property tax burden.
7. As per City-commissioned studies, commercial properties consume merely 23% of city services.
8. Commercial properties in Vancouver receive significantly less services from the city and essentially a growing subsidy of the residential tax base.

The tens of thousands of small businesses of Vancouver need you to commit to fulfilling your election pledge to help them survive and thrive. Thank you for initiating the requested 2% shift in the 2019 levy.

The Vancouver BIA Partnership is a coalition of all 22 BIAs in the City of Vancouver representing approximately 22,000 commercial businesses and property owners. Collectively, we champion healthy and vibrant commercial districts.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Barnes".

Patricia Barnes, on behalf of the
Vancouver BIA Partnership