

25 October 2013

VIA EMAIL

Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
BISS
905 – 601 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4C2
RFP@vch.ca

Attn: Jordan Mador, Project Manager
Business Initiatives & Support Services

Dear Mr. Mador:

As you know, on October 10, 2013, our Association expressed concern with the short timelines in RFP 2013-BISS-008. While Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) has extended the closing date, it is our position that the extension has caused further unfairness.

First, the initial closing time was 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 21, 2013. To our knowledge, the extension notice was not posted until after 2:00 p.m. that day. Providing less than two hours' notice defeats the purpose of the extension. With no guarantee that an extension would be granted, proponents would have worked hard to finalize and submit their proposal by the initial deadline. For the extension to have been meaningful, reasonable notice should have been provided.

Second, given the short notice, the extension has potentially created two classes of proponents. There may be proponents who submitted their proposal before the extension notice, and others who had not submitted their proposal for any number of reasons. The latter group will have an extra week to prepare and finalize their materials. The additional time may give them an advantage over those who had already submitted their proposal.

Third, the one week extension falls short of industry best practice. As we stated in our October 10th correspondence, a minimum of six to eight weeks would provide potential proponents a reasonable opportunity to compete. It is our opinion that the one week extension is not in accordance with clause 6.3.2(a)(8) of the Government Core Policy and Procedures Manual.

We trust that future RFP processes will be governed in a fair and reasonable manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Fontaine', written in a cursive style.

Daniel Fontaine
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Shannon Berg