

Petition Case Study

Fight the HST Campaign, BC, 2011

http://bht.com/blog/hst/?page_id=18

HST Referendum Timeline

February 4, 2010 - the Chief Electoral Office approved in principle a petition submitted by William Vander Zalm to rescind the HST and restore the PST. [News Release](#)

April 6, 2010 - Elections B.C. issued [the petition to the proponent](#).

June 30, 2010 - The petition was subsequently submitted to the Acting Chief Electoral Officer to determine if more than 10 per cent of registered voters in each electoral district entitled to sign the position had done so. Of the 713,883 signatures gathered, Elections B.C. determined that 557,383 were valid and the threshold had been achieved.

July 1, 2010 - The PST ceased to apply as of this day, and the HST began to apply instead.

August 23, 2010 - after the courts upheld the decision to grant approval in principle to the initiative petition application, the Acting Chief Electoral Officer sent the [petition and draft legislation to the Select Standing Committee on Legislative Initiatives](#).

September 13, 2010 - the BC Legislature's Select Standing Committee on Legislative Initiatives [referred the initiative to end the harmonized sales tax \(HST\) and draft Bill \(HST Extinguishment Act\)](#) to the Acting Chief Electoral Officer to conduct an initiative vote under sections 13 and 14 of the Recall and Initiative Act. This will be the first initiative vote to be conducted since the Act came into force in 1995.

November 10, 2010 - Acting Chief Electoral Officer Craig James delivered the proposed initiative vote question to then Attorney General Michael de Jong.

NOTE: up until this point, everything has been done under the Citizens Recall and Initiative Act. The next steps have occurred under the Referendum Act.

March 25, 2011 - The BC Government announces that a vote on the HST under the Referendum Act. The Acting Chief Electoral Officer has proposed the following referendum question:

"Are you in favour of extinguishing the HST (Harmonized Sales Tax) and reinstating the PST (Provincial Sales Tax) in conjunction with the GST (Goods and Services Tax)? Yes/No."

April 27, 2011 - the BC Government introduced the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) Initiative Vote and Referendum Act to the legislature so that the vote under the Citizens Recall and Initiative Act in September will not have to be held on September 24, 2011, in light of the pending Referendum Act vote in June/July.

May 4, 2011 - Bill 4, the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) Initiative Vote and Referendum Act received 3rd reading. It has not yet received royal assent.

June 13, 2011 - Elections BC mails out the referendum ballots to all registered voters.

June 24, 2011 - the BC government currently plans for the majority of British Columbians to have received the mail-in ballot for the referendum by this date.

July 8, 2011 - last day for a voter to request a ballot from Elections BC.

July 22, 2011 - 4:30 p.m. (local time) – Completed ballots must be received by mail by Elections BC or in person by a Service BC centre.

September 24, 2011 - this was the date British Columbians were to vote on the initiative (i.e., there will be a second vote) in accordance with the Citizens Recall and Initiative Act. Assuming the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) Initiative Vote and Referendum Act receives Royal Assent, this vote will not happen.