



## Advocacy, Benefits, Connections

October 15, 2024

From the desk of the President

A recent press release was issued containing claims that the Mission Chamber failed to address a conflict of interest in regards to our recent All Candidates Forum. We acknowledge that a member of the Chamber's Government Relations Committee and Board, and a former staff member of Pam Alexis attended the September 17th meeting, which included discussions about the questions to be asked at the upcoming All Candidates event. However, it is important to note that this meeting was attended by the full committee, including other board members, the Chamber Board President, the Chamber's Executive Director, and community members.

The GR Committee does not plan or oversee any events, including the All Candidates Forum. There were six prepared questions asked of candidates. Two were submitted by the Fraser Valley Real Estate Board, two were selected from a list of submitted questions from the Fraser Valley Business Coalition which were created with input from the Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Langley, and Mission Chambers, and two were submitted by the GR Committee. The two questions submitted by the GR Committee were in relation to Mission's high school and Mission's hospital, both hot topics in the community. While the committee did discuss and review prepared questions, this person did not receive any privileged or exclusive information beyond what was shared with all committee members. There were an additional 46 questions submitted by the public via email or live via Slido during the event, which were also not shared in advance with anyone, including board members or committee members. Every MRCC Board member signs a binding confidentiality agreement. While we are extremely confident that the six prepared questions were not leaked to any candidate, we acknowledge that no organization can 100% guarantee information security.

As of August, the person in question was no longer employed by the MLA office and had no role in the preparation or organization of this event outside of the question portion of the aforementioned meeting. She also has never been an employee or a volunteer with the campaign for Ms. Alexis. We regret that her previous employment has led to the perception of a conflict of interest, but we can assure you that the Chamber followed its established procedures to maintain fairness and transparency.

We value the integrity of the democratic process and are committed to providing all candidates with an equal platform. We trust that the strong participation and engagement at the event demonstrate the Chamber's commitment to fostering a fair and unbiased discussion.

We hope this provides clarity, but please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions or concerns.

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