

From: Sarah Svensson

To: President

Sent: Fri May 08 09:51:10 2009

Subject: Re: Message from the President of the Canadian Bar Association BC Branch

Hi Miriam,

Thank you for your email bringing this issue to my attention. While the Green Party of BC does not have a specific position on this issue, we plan to perform an overall review of the application of sales taxes in the province and the application of the PST to legal services would certainly be evaluated as part of this.

Generally, we would redesign the sales tax system to shift more taxes onto goods and services that are not healthy for the people and environment of British Columbia, and away from those that promote healthy living and a sustainable environment. This would also include those things that are of a basic necessity for all in the province, and access to legal services could conceivably be a part of this. However, while we generally support the concept that businesses, including law offices, should be provided with a competitive tax environment, we also believe strongly that such specific decisions need to be made in the context of the health of British Columbia as a whole, which includes maintaining government revenues; thus, at this point it is difficult at this point for us to make specific promises without evaluating the sales tax system as a whole.

In summary, we believe the sales tax system needs to be adjusted in such a way that shifts taxes onto those things that contribute negatively to the health of our province from those that contribute positively, which may include legal services, after thorough evaluation of the entire tax system. I hope this has addressed your concerns - thank you for your email!

Sarah Svensson