

Mayoral Moves

In the wake of Gregor Robertson's announcement that he won't run for mayor again, our online story asking if several Vancouver celebrities should join the race provoked some discussion on Twitter. One well-known Vancouverite, **Canucks mascot Fin** (@CanucksFIN), appeared hurt: "What??? I didn't make the cut?!" The David Suzuki Foundation and journalist Stephen Quinn, who did make the list, were happy to poke fun at Fin with some pointed GIFs.

Poll of the Month

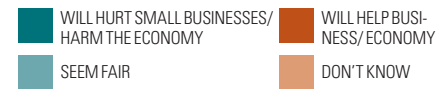
Federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau is proposing changes to small business taxation, including limiting the ability of a business owner to pay less tax through so-called income sprinkling to family members; restricting the use of small business corporations for making passive investments such as buying and selling shares of other companies; and cutting the small business tax rate from 10.5 percent to 9 percent by 2019. In December, Mustel Group asked 300 B.C. residents what they thought of the proposals.

Very few believed the changes would help business and the economy, and there was only one demographic where more than 50 percent of respondents predicted they would hurt small businesses and harm the economy—not surprisingly, small business owners. Regionally, the biggest disparity was between residents of the City of Vancouver (22 percent) and the Interior (44.2 percent) in expecting negative effects.

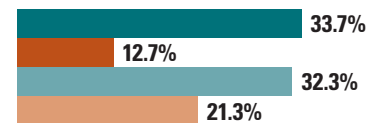
Mustel principal Evi Mustel notes that most respondents were members of the general population, but "we do have a small sample of small business owners, and that's really where you see the opposition."

Although the survey size was modest, Mustel suspects that the results would have been similar with a bigger one. "Among the general public, you can see it's just about a third that think it will have negative impacts, a small group think it will have a positive impact, and the rest think it's fair or don't have an opinion on it," she says.

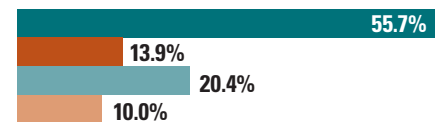
When considered together, overall do you think the proposed small business tax changes:



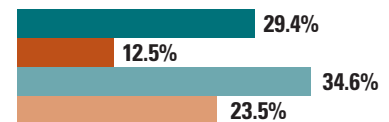
TOTAL RESPONSES



OWN A SMALL BUSINESS



DON'T OWN A SMALL BUSINESS



If you haven't met John yet, it's time.



In October John Parker and his team of six joined our Vancouver office, and the move has been a delight for everyone involved. John shares our dedication to providing exemplary client service, and now we can offer our clients an even greater range of expertise.

Drop by Grant Thornton Place to say hello to John. He'd be glad to talk to you about the many ways our robust team can help your business succeed—and grow.

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