



May 11, 2018

Ref: 235596

Her Worship Mayor Lisa Helps  
City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Sq  
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

MINORIS OFFICE

1000-1000-1000

VICTORIA, B.C.

Rick Hansen  
Founder and Chief Executive Officer  
Rick Hansen Foundation  
300-3820 Cessna Dr  
Richmond BC V7B 0A2

Dear Mayor Helps and Mr. Hansen:

Thank you for your letters of April 6, 2018, and April 18, 2018, providing an update on the City of Victoria's Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project. I am pleased to learn that the City is working closely with the Rick Hansen Foundation. Together, I am confident that you will be able to achieve your goal of creating an innovative project guided by barrier-free accessibility. I apologize for the delay in responding.

I also want to acknowledge and congratulate you on the success in securing conditional approval for \$6 million dollars through the Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund for this project.

As you are aware, the Province of British Columbia has recently signed the integrated bilateral agreement with the federal government for the Investing in Canada Plan (ICIP). The ICIP will provide opportunities for British Columbia communities to apply for new project funding, a valuable tool which will support long-term economic growth, the advancement of sustainable communities, and continued movement to a low carbon, green economy.

The ICIP is separated into multiple streams providing funding opportunities for green infrastructure, recreation facilities, cultural programs and projects in British Columbia's rural and northern communities.

The Crystal Pool and Wellness Centre Replacement Project will be eligible under the Community, Culture and Recreation stream (CCR). This funding stream supports projects that increase access to recreation and cultural facilities and that improve civic engagement. It is encouraging that the City's current plan has put such a strong emphasis on serving all members of the community, including vulnerable citizens.

.../2

Programs within the ICIP are currently under development, as such, project approvals are not expected to be finalized this fiscal year. Program specific information regarding funding options and criteria will be made available later this year. All local governments will be notified directly once timelines respecting the funding streams becomes available.

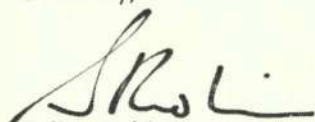
I appreciate that time is of the essence for this project as the City would like to commence construction in 2018; however, I must also emphasize that projects that award tender prior to funding approval are ineligible for program funding.

In your follow-up letter, you have indicated that the City has no plans to initiate a referendum on external borrowing. While the City has the authority to make such a decision, large-scale projects that demonstrate both public and financial support through a referendum (or some form of public approval process) are identified as lower risk under the program assessment.

I understand that City staff have already discussed this proposed project with the Ministry's Local Government Division. I encourage City staff to continue to contact Brian Bedford, Director, Infrastructure and Engineering, Local Government Division, by telephone at: 778 698-3232, or by email at: [Brian.Bedford@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brian.Bedford@gov.bc.ca).

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SR', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Selina Robinson  
Minister

pc: Brian Bedford, Director  
Infrastructure and Engineering  
Local Government Division  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing