

Minister of Finance



Ministre des Finances

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G5

MAY 08 2019

2019FIN483281

Her Worship Lisa Helps  
Mayor  
City of Victoria  
ldeamaral@victoria.ca

Dear Mayor Helps:

Thank you for your correspondence of February 13, 2019 regarding your support for the University of Victoria's proposal to create a dual degree in common law and Indigenous legal orders and build a Legal Lodge to house this program. Please excuse the delay in replying.

The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of revitalizing Indigenous legal systems, and the important role that Indigenous law institutes, in partnership with Indigenous communities, can play in understanding, developing and implementing Indigenous laws. The University of Victoria has been a leader in this field. This is why Budget 2019 announced \$9.1 million over three years, starting in 2019-20, to support the construction of an Indigenous Legal Lodge at the University of Victoria. In addition, Budget 2019 announced another \$10 million over five years, starting in 2019-20, in support of Indigenous law initiatives across Canada through the Justice Partnership and Innovation Program. Both of these investments respond directly to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's *Calls to Action, No. 50*, to fund the establishment of Indigenous law institutes for the development, use and understanding of Indigenous laws, and access to justice in accordance with the unique cultures of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Given their role in the implementation of these investments, I have forwarded a copy of your correspondence to my colleagues, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Honourable David Lametti, and the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development, the Honourable Navdeep Bains.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Bill Morneau, P.C., M.P.

c. The Honourable David Lametti, P.C., M.P.  
The Honourable Navdeep Bains, P.C., M.P.

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