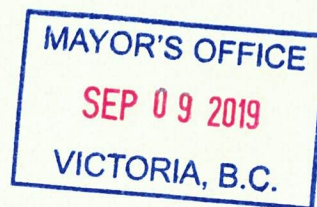




SEP 04 2019

Ref: 248099

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



Dear Mayor Helps: *Lisa,*

Thank you for your letter of addressed to the Honourable John Horgan, Premier, regarding accessible parking. Please accept my apologies for the delay responding.

Like you, our government recognizes that accessible parking is a critically important matter for many people who live in and visit British Columbia. The Province is committed to making our province more accessible and the 2018 BC Building Code requires a greater level of building accessibility by combining the requirements of the 2015 NBC with BC's historical requirements.

In preparing the 2018 BC Building Code, it was identified that local governments are best suited to regulate accessible parking spaces according to their communities' needs. As you know, the BC Building Code sets standards that must be met at the time of construction or renovation. Once the Building Code has been met, the Code is not intended to be used to enforce the retention of accessible off-street parking into the future. At the same time, the Building Code is not applied retroactively and accessible parking in existing buildings is dependent on the version of the Code that applied at the time of construction. Conversely, municipal parking bylaws can be enforced for any off-street parking regardless of whether there is a building permit. Given these factors, municipal parking bylaws have been identified as a more effective tool to ensure that communities have accessible off-street parking that meets local needs.

Provisions for accessible parking in the BC Building Code also created overlap and potential confusion with local government bylaws.

Local governments that do not already have accessible parking requirements in their bylaws may wish to develop requirements that meet the specific needs of their communities. Our Planning and Land Use Management Branch is available to answer any questions about developing parking bylaws and can be reached by emailing [PLUM@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PLUM@gov.bc.ca). We would also be happy to arrange an in-person meeting with Ministry staff, if that would be helpful.

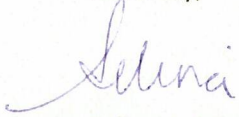
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You may be interested in the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction's work across government to improve access for people with disabilities. This includes a consultation process beginning in fall 2019 regarding new accessibility legislation which will make B.C. a more inclusive and welcoming place.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Selina', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Selina Robinson  
Minister

pc: Honourable John Horgan, Premier  
Honourable Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction