



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

SEP 06 2019

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

Dear Madam ^{Lisa} Mayor:

Thank you for your letter of April 24, 2019, and enclosure, concerning the City of Victoria's declaration of a climate emergency. I regret the delay in responding.

It is clear from your letter that the City of Victoria and the Capital Region District are taking this issue very seriously, particularly through the City's commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. I commend the City for taking action, and I agree that municipalities have an important role to play in addressing climate change.

The Government of Canada recognizes the urgent threat of climate change as highlighted in the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's special report *Global Warming of 1.5°C*. The Government knows that climate change is having real and devastating impacts on the lives of Canadians. That is why on May 13, 2019, I introduced a motion in the House of Commons to recognize that Canada is in a national climate emergency, which requires parliamentarians to commit to meeting this country's national emissions target under the Paris Agreement and to making deeper reductions.

In 2016, the federal government worked with provinces and territories to develop the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, the country's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build resilience to a changing climate, and grow the economy. This comprehensive climate change plan puts Canada on a path toward meeting its Paris Agreement commitment of a 30-percent reduction in emissions from 2005 levels by 2030.

The Pan-Canadian Framework outlines more than 50 concrete measures across four pillars: pricing carbon pollution; complementary actions to reduce emissions; adaptation and climate resilience; and clean technology, innovation and jobs. The plan includes policies, regulations and investments to drive down greenhouse gas emissions; a pan-Canadian price on carbon pollution; as well as a broad suite of other measures.

These actions are supported by historic investments in recent years such as \$3 billion in funding for clean technology initiatives; \$26.9 billion to support green infrastructure, including renewable energy, electric vehicle charging, natural gas

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and hydrogen refueling stations, and other adaptation and resiliency initiatives; and \$28.7 billion to support public transit. The Government of Canada has also launched the \$2-billion Low Carbon Economy Fund to leverage investments in projects that will generate clean growth and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, industries, forestry and agriculture.

Most recently, Budget 2019 announced additional funding that includes \$300 million over three years to introduce a new federal purchase incentive of up to \$5 000 for battery-electric or hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. It also provided \$130 million over five years for new charging and refueling stations in workplaces, public parking spots, commercial and multi-unit residential buildings, and remote locations. Other key announcements included an allocation of \$5 billion to the Canada Infrastructure Bank for investments in green infrastructure that could include electricity projects such as interties between provinces and territories.

The Government of Canada recognizes the important role that municipalities have to play in addressing climate change, and providing resources to support local climate initiatives. Budget 2019 provided \$1.01 billion through the Green Municipal Fund to be delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Funding will support municipalities to retrofit and improve energy efficiency in large community buildings, homes, and affordable housing developments.

In addition, the Government provided \$450 million through the Champions stream of the Low Carbon Economy Challenge for projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Municipalities were eligible applicants under this stream, demonstrating the federal government's commitment to working with municipalities and supporting local projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Under the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund, the Government of Canada is also collaborating with provinces and territories to support municipal projects. As you are no doubt aware, the governments of Canada and British Columbia are jointly funding the provincial government's EfficiencyBC program to provide financial incentives for British Columbians to increase the energy efficiency of their homes. Program partners include the federal government, BC Hydro, FortisBC, BC Housing, and local governments like the City of Victoria. Residents and businesses within the municipality of Victoria are eligible to apply for EfficiencyBC funding support.

In terms of other regional initiatives, you may be familiar with the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium, a regional climate expert organization at the University of Victoria. The Government of Canada was pleased to provide the Consortium with \$1.25 million in funding over five years to co-ordinate the delivery of climate services with the Canadian Centre for Climate Services in order to increase awareness and use of climate data to support climate adaptation decisions in British Columbia and beyond.

Canada's most recent emissions projections, published in December 2018, show a widespread decline in projected emissions across all economic sectors, reflecting the breadth and depth of the Pan-Canadian Framework. When this plan is fully implemented, it will put this country on a path toward meeting its 2030 target.

For more information on Canada's climate plan and its progress, please visit www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan.html.

In closing, I want to assure you that the Government of Canada will continue to take important steps with its partners and stakeholders, including municipalities, to leave a cleaner, more resilient and prosperous world for this and future generations.

I appreciate the City of Victoria's commitment and support for this important issue. Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C McKenna', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.