

Pamela Martin

From: Minister, ENV ENV:EX <env.minister@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019 10:37 AM

To: Lisa Helps (Mayor)

Cc: Richard Elliott

Subject: RE: Council Motion, City of Victoria - Provincial Climate Leadership

Reference: 344479

June 3, 2019

Her Worship Mayor Lisa Helps
and Councillors
City of Victoria
Email: mayor@victoria.ca

Dear Mayor Helps and Council:

Thank you for your letter of March 29, 2019, which was also addressed to the MLAs of British Columbia, regarding Provincial climate leadership. As your enquiry falls under the responsibility of my ministry, I am pleased to respond on behalf of my MLA colleagues. I am also in receipt of your April 24, 2019, letter and the City of Victoria's Climate Leadership Plan.

With respect to the City of Victoria's resolutions, legislated targets, the CleanBC detailed plan and accountability measures are a clear and proactive response to the climate emergency and impacts facing all levels of government and all nations. Our CleanBC plan addresses much of your resolution requesting taxation and policies to reduce greenhouse gas emission, and we are actively working with other ministries on implementing the plan. While I appreciate you shared your thoughts on the *Income Tax Amendment Act, 2019*, as you may know, this legislation has now passed.

Our government recognizes there is work to do and we look forward to collaboration with local governments and regional districts on greenhouse gas mitigation strategies, infrastructure, public transportation, waste, clean energy and adaptation strategies. We are implementing commitments from our CleanBC plan now and will develop additional strategies to help BC and local government partners make progress on their respective climate actions.

The Province is participating in town hall calls, presentations and workshops leading to further collaboration with local governments and the citizens of BC. In addition, the Provincial Government-UBCM Green Communities Committee (GCC) was created to support strategies and actions to help implement the Climate Action Charter. This committee remains a key priority and continues to meet on a regular basis to support local governments taking action on climate change. GCC is well placed to support local governments as leaders who measure and manage their corporate and community-wide emissions and create clean, compact and more energy-efficient communities.

In addition to the GCC, the Climate Action Secretariat (CAS) works directly with local government staff supporting them on greenhouse gas inventories and reduction activities. Staff also regularly attend conferences and networks where local government staff and elected officials gather, and have presented on CleanBC and on how best we can work together. Most recently CAS presented to the Capital Regional District Climate Action Inter-Municipal Task Force on CleanBC.

I recognize that local communities and governments have been and will continue to be leaders on initiatives to reduce carbon pollution. We need that local leadership to continue to meet our targets and make CleanBC a success. We are committed to constructive collaboration with you.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. We look forward to a continued partnership with the City of Victoria.

Sincerely,

George Heyman
Minister

cc: Rich Elliott, Executive Assistant, Mayor's Office