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September 25, 2017

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Mayors and Councillors  
c/o City of Victoria  
1 Centennial Square  
Victoria BC V8W 1P6

Dear Mayors and Councillors:

Thank you for your letter dated August 16, 2017 to the Premier and congratulations on your recent efforts to conceptualize a Community Benefit Hub.

The Ministry of Citizens' Services Service Plan 2017/18 - 2018-19 was updated and released earlier in September with Budget 2017/18. The plan states that the Ministry of Citizens' Services (the Ministry) will focus on providing key services that citizens can count on and build opportunities for local communities and businesses to benefit from government's purchasing power.

Moving forward, the Ministry will leverage its purchasing power to create greater opportunities for provincial government procurement to work better for companies that hire locally, have a local supply chain and benefit BC communities.

While the Ministry has no jurisdiction over procurement practices in other levels of government, we would be pleased to meet with your group and learn more about your initiative. My staff will contact Ms. Hamilton directly to set up a meeting.

With respect to training related to the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), as part of the implementation of both the new Canadian Free Trade Agreement and the CETA, the Province did conduct a webinar for the BC Public Sector on the incoming procurement changes that was delivered to the Procurement Community of Practice (PCOP) on September 12. Presentation slides and recorded webinars are made available to PCOP members through the Community's Sharepoint site within two weeks of each webinar.

The Procurement Community of Practice (PCoP) is a forum for all government and public sector staff engaged in procurement and/or contract management, to share and exchange information, knowledge, expertise, advice and ideas relating to procurement and contracting processes. PCOP membership is open to the municipal, academic, school, and health sector.

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Further information on PCOP is available online at the following website:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/services-for-government/bc-bid-resources/support-services/procurement-community-of-practice>.

In addition, the Province is working with its New West Partnership Trade Agreement partners to update the Procurement Guidelines Manual to incorporate changes due to CFTA and CETA.

Thank you again for your letter, and for your laudable work in promoting strategic procurement to benefit BC's communities.

Sincerely,



Jinny Jogindera Sims  
Minister

cc: Hon. Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development & Poverty Reduction  
Hon. Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing  
Hon. Scott Fraser, Minister for Indigenous Reconciliation  
Hon. Claire Trevena, Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure  
Hon. Carole James, Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier  
Hon. George Chow, Minister of State for Trade  
Hon. Rob Fleming, Minister of Education  
Hon. Adrian Dix, Minister of Health  
Andrew Weaver, Leader of the BC Green Party  
Sandra Hamilton, Strategic Procurement Advisor