



MINISTER'S OFFICE
VICTORIA, B.C.

MAR 04 2016

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

Dear Mayor Helps:

Thank you for your letter of January 11, 2016, addressed to the Honourable Michael de Jong, Q.C., Minister of Finance, regarding the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) program in the City of Victoria.

Since 1999, the City of Victoria has been exempted (or “grand-parented”) from the requirement to submit renewal applications for the MRDT every five years. In your letter, you have requested the removal of grand-parented status from the City of Victoria and indicated that effective January 1, 2017, the designated recipient for the MRDT within the City of Victoria will change from the municipality to its Destination Marketing Organization, Tourism Victoria.

The grand-parented status and resulting exemption from renewal requirements is attached to the City of Victoria as designated recipient for the MRDT. When Tourism Victoria submits its MRDT application, it will be considered a new applicant, and the change in designated recipient to Tourism Victoria will automatically result in grand-parented status being removed. This would mean that if Tourism Victoria’s application is approved by Cabinet, the MRDT would be enacted for a period of five years, after which a renewal application would be required.

If the City of Victoria or Tourism Victoria requires any assistance in completing its MRDT application, please contact Peter Harrison, Director, Destination Development & Co-operative Marketing Programs, at: Peter.harrison@destinationbc.ca.

I trust this information is helpful to the City and is consistent with the City’s request. I would like to thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Kim Henderson
Deputy Minister

cc: Honourable Shirley Bond
Minister of Jobs, Tourism, and Skills Training