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CITY OF BURNABY  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
DEREK R. CORRIGAN  
MAYOR

2015 December 17

The Honourable Peter Fassbender  
Minister of Community, Sport & Cultural Development  
PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Mr. Fassbender:

**Subject: Anticipated Property Assessment Changes in 2016**

On behalf of the City of Burnaby, I am writing to express our serious concerns regarding the significant property assessment changes anticipated for 2016. Early notification to property owners whose properties have experienced an above average increase has not eased the minds of our citizens. The City of Burnaby Tax Office has received numerous calls from distressed property owners requesting that the City take action to mitigate the risk that they will have to pay considerably higher taxes in 2016.

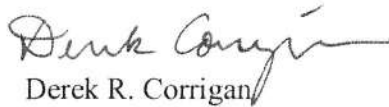
By our calculations, the average increase in assessments for properties across Burnaby for 2016 will be approximately 12%. To address or respond to our citizens' concerns, the City has investigated options for mitigating the negative impacts of such a dramatic increase, but find ourselves limited by provisions in the Community Charter (Division 3, Section 197, 4, a). The City does not have the ability to vary rates within a Class, therefore those residential properties that have experienced an increase above the average will pay higher taxes in comparison to the average property. The City of Burnaby is committed to taking whatever action it can and challenges the Provincial Government to do the same.

The City of Burnaby calls upon the Provincial Government to address the negative repercussions of such a substantial assessment value increase by freezing property value assessments at 2014 levels. Further, the City of Burnaby requests that the Provincial Government consider amending/updating the Home Owner Grant program as many Burnaby homeowners will no longer qualify for the grant under the outdated program threshold.

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A response to this letter is formally requested, outlining any actions, if any, planned by the Provincial Government to address our citizens' concerns to be shared with all Burnaby residents.

Yours truly,



Derek R. Corrigan  
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Copied to: Burnaby Members of Legislative Assembly  
Union of British Columbia Municipalities  
Metro Vancouver Municipalities

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