



MAYOR'S OFFICE

NOV 16 2015

VICTORIA, B.C.

Ref: 111024

NOV 09 2015

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

Mr. Dave Cowen  
Board Chair  
Tourism Victoria  
812 Wharf Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 1T3

Dear Mayor Helps and Mr. Cowen:

Thank you for your letter of October 19, 2015, regarding the intent to renew the relationship between the City of Victoria and Tourism Victoria as it pertains to the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) program.

I appreciate your update in regard to the David Foster Harbour Pathway project and your commitment to the broader plans for the Belleville Terminal. The Belleville Terminal represents a key access point for travellers to Victoria and Vancouver Island. I understand you have support from the Honourable Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, in undertaking phase one of the terminal redevelopment. I wish you success in your discussions with the federal government in late November to advance phases two and three.

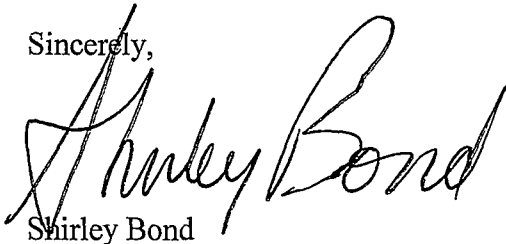
A request to remove grandparented status would need to be submitted to the Minister of Finance by the City of Victoria, as the designated recipient. A change in status will require an amendment, approved by Cabinet, to the "Designated Accommodation Area Tax Regulation," which is the responsibility of the Minister of Finance. I encourage you to contact the Ministry of Finance for further direction on changing your MRDT status.

.../2

Her Worship Mayor Lisa Helps  
Mr. Dave Cowen  
Page 2

I am pleased to see the level of collaboration between the City of Victoria and Tourism Victoria and your interest in moving towards greater alignment, enhanced stakeholder engagement and increased efficiencies in the use of MRDT funds. We have recently revised the MRDT program requirements to include broader stakeholder consultation and support to promote greater accountability and transparency. You can find the revised MRDT program requirements at [www.destinationbc.ca/MRDT](http://www.destinationbc.ca/MRDT). I will ensure staff from the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Destination British Columbia are available to provide assistance to the City of Victoria and Tourism Victoria as you work through the details of a renewed MRDT partnership and potential application for a three percent MRDT rate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley Bond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shirley" being more prominent than the last name "Bond".

Shirley Bond  
Minister

pc: Ms. Athana Mentzelopolous  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training  
and Minister Responsible for Labour