

THE CITY OF VICTORIA



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

March 6, 2019,

Dear Premier Horgan,

I am writing on behalf of Victoria City Council, requesting favourable consideration and resolutions of support for the extension of vacancy taxation authority to local governments.

At the January 17, 2019 Council Meeting, Council approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia responded to a housing affordability crisis in 2016 with legislation empowering the City of Vancouver to introduce a surtax on vacant residential properties, resulting in \$38-million in revenues for that community in 2018 and creating a strong disincentive to leaving properties vacant;

AND WHEREAS communities across British Columbia face housing affordability pressures, while a portion of the housing supply in all communities remains vacant, including properties that have remained derelict for years or decades;

AND WHEREAS vacant and derelict buildings pose substantial risks in terms of public safety in communities, as well as liveability and desirability for nearby and adjoining neighbourhoods and properties;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of British Columbia extend the authority to introduce a surtax on vacant residential properties to local governments across British Columbia, providing communities with the discretion to decide whether to introduce an additional tax to discourage vacant and derelict buildings, and encourage the occupancy, maintenance, and improvement of buildings to address housing affordability and public safety.

We eagerly look forward to your support on this matter.

Sincerely,

Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor

THE CITY OF VICTORIA



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

- cc. **Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance**
Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
The Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Annual Convention
The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention
British Columbia Municipalities and Regional Districts



March 7, 2019,

To All British Columbia Municipalities and Regional Districts;

I am writing on behalf of Victoria City Council, requesting favourable consideration and resolutions of support for recovering municipal costs arising from climate change.

At the January 17, 2019 Council Meeting, Council approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS local governments are incurring substantial costs in relation to the impacts of climate change, including volatile weather patterns, drought, wildfires, erosion and other impacts;

AND WHEREAS it is fiscally prudent to recover these costs from corporations that have profited from the burning of fossil fuels, with knowledge that these economic activities contribute to climate change;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT UBCM explore the initiation of a class action lawsuit on behalf of member local governments to recover costs arising from climate change from major fossil fuels corporations;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province of British Columbia consider legislation to support local governments in recovering costs arising from climate change from major fossil fuel corporations.

We eagerly look forward to your support on this matter.

Sincerely,

Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor

cc. The Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Annual Convention
The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention



March 7, 2019,

Dear Premier Horgan,

I am writing on behalf of Victoria City Council, requesting favourable consideration and resolutions of support for the provincial universal school food program.

At the February 7, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting, Council approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS almost 500,000 individuals in BC experience food insecurity, and Canada remains one of the only Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations without a national school food program. And, Canada's current patchwork of school food programming reaches only a small percentage of students.

WHEREAS school food programs have been shown to increase children's consumption of vegetables, fruits and other healthy foods and decrease the consumption of unhealthy ones; improve students' mental health, including reductions in behavioural and emotional problems; improve cognitive skills and increase scholastic success.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM advocate to the provincial government for a Universal Healthy School Food Program that will enable all students in BC to have access to healthy meals at school, building on existing programs and including food education to serve culturally appropriate, local, sustainable food to the fullest extent possible.

We eagerly look forward to your support on this matter.

Sincerely,

Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor

cc. Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Education
The Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Annual Convention
The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention
British Columbia Municipalities and Regional Districts

THE CITY OF VICTORIA



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

March 7, 2019,

Dear Premier Horgan,

I am writing on behalf of Victoria City Council, requesting favourable consideration and resolutions of support for permanent residents to vote in BC municipal elections.

At the February 14, 2019 Council Meeting, Council approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has the governing authority to implement electoral legislative changes including allowing for Permanent Residents to vote in municipal elections;

AND WHEREAS more than 45 countries have granted Permanent Residents some form of voting rights — including seven jurisdictions in the U.S. and 25 European Union countries; and 11 municipalities in Canada are working toward extending local election voting rights to Permanent Residents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of British Columbia to make the necessary changes to allow Permanent Residents to vote in municipal elections in Victoria and other municipalities.

We eagerly look forward to your support on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Helps".

Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor

cc. Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
The Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) Annual Convention
The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Annual Convention
British Columbia Municipalities and Regional Districts