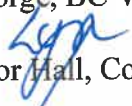




October 22, 2021

His Worship Lyn Hall
Mayor, City of Prince George
1100 Patricia Boulevard
Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

Dear Mayor , Councillors and Staff:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me during the virtual 2021 UBCM Convention in September. The discussions held during UBCM play an integral role in guiding our policies and decisions as we work to support all of the diverse and unique communities throughout British Columbia.

I was happy to hear Prince George would be hosting the 2022 World Curling Championships, the BC Summer Games, the Council of Forests, and the BC Natural Resources Forum. These are critical events for us to get back to normal, and I was pleased to hear you had met with Minister Mark regarding grants for sport hosting.

We spoke about the opioid crisis and the strain it is putting on Prince George's health care system as well as on the city, itself, in terms of safety and housing. Our government recognizes the importance of working collaboratively across all levels of government to address and provide additional housing and complex care for our most vulnerable. I am glad that the city had a positive meeting with Minister Eby and I encourage continued work with BC Housing. As we work toward decriminalizing personal possession, we need to also find ways of ensuring the public understand this as a health crisis. As we discussed, the federal government has acknowledged the need for public health funding, and I look forward to working with the Prime Minister to make progress on this.

The challenges facing communities that deal directly with wildfires are significant, and I appreciated hearing your thoughts on what steps Prince George would like to take on the issue. Your proposal of an emergency response and coordination centre is something to look into as we need to better prepare communities with fire smart programs and year-round efforts to fight fires. You should expect a call from Minister Farnworth and staff shortly to discuss this.

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Thank you, again, for meeting and for your service to the City of Prince George.

Sincerely,



John Horgan
Premier

cc: Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Honourable Melanie Mark, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
Honourable David Eby, Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Housing
Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General