



City of Pitt Meadows
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

November 17, 2021

File: 05-1900-01/21

Selina Robinson
Minister of Finance
PO Box 9048 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Sent via email: FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Robinson:

Re: Unfair Taxation Benefitting Railway and Industrial Operations

Further to your November 4, 2021 letter advising the Province has no plans to explore reclassification with respect to Railway and Industrial Operations, we are writing to express our significant disappointment with this information.

Although your letter is in response to the September 10, 2021 UBCM meeting it does not appear to consider the overwhelming support of over 90% of UBCM members (90.4% for fair taxation from railway operations and 94.9% for fair taxation from industrial parks) requesting a review of the legislation. Given the high level of support from around the province, we were hopeful more due consideration would be given to our request.

Additionally, over 25 years has passed since the legislation was changed. However, over the last 25 years there have been significant changes in the environment, health and safety considerations as well as continued and increasing pressures on local services and infrastructure.

With regards to your comment on reviewing the assessment methodology of linear properties we would appreciate understanding the rationale, approach and expectation of this review.

For clarity, there were two separate requests for legislation review.

1. Railway Operations - Create fairer taxation by removing section 5(e) of the Assessment Act – Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation B.C. Reg. 438/81 endorsed by UBCM under NR23 Fair Taxation from Railway Operations.
2. Industrial Operations - Create fairer taxation by removing section 5(f) of the Assessment Act – Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation B.C. Reg. 438/81 endorsed by UBCM under NR25 Fair Taxation from Industrial Parks.

Your letter appears to address the railway operations fair taxation request by not wishing to reconsider the 1995/96 decision which is specific to railway operations. However, the review of fair taxation in industrial operations does not appear to have been addressed.

We look forward to a favourable response in regards to our concerns.

Yours Truly,



Mayor Bill Dingwall

BGS, LL.B., CPHR

cc: UBCM Executive
UBCM Member Municipalities