



April 30, 2020

Hon. Minister Selina Robinson
Room 310 Parliament Buildings
501 Belleville St.
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Robinson:

RE: Supporting British Columbians during the COVID-19 pandemic

As Mayor of the City of North Vancouver I want to start by thanking you for your tireless work during these difficult times. Residents are appreciative of the work done by the Province to assist individuals, municipalities, and businesses.

As you know, in a letter dated March 23, 2020 to Hon. Premier John Horgan and yourself, a number of Metro Vancouver Mayors including myself asked the Province to expand the Provincial Property Tax Deferment Program to include all property owners.

We have yet to receive a formal reply regarding this request.

On Monday April 27, 2020 at the City's Council meeting, Council members shared their concerns regarding the accessibility of the Provincial Property Tax Deferment Program and the current eligibility stipulations.

Council and staff have received numerous communications from residents who are facing new financial challenges as a result of the ongoing pandemic, and who are not currently eligible to access the Provincial Property Tax Deferment Program. As a result, Council passed the following resolution unanimously:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write to the Provincial government requesting that a Financial Hardship Program be added to the Provincial Property Tax Deferment Program for a limited time, similar to what was introduced in 2009;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all BC local governments, UBCM, LMLGA and North Shore MLAs and MPs.

Council has requested that if your government is unable to expand the current program to include all property owners, that you consider implementing a Financial Hardship Program similar to the program that was introduced for a limited time following the 2008 economic recession.

An increasing number of experts predict that the COVID-19 pandemic will be more detrimental to the world economy than the 2008 economic recession, and therefore the

addition of a Financial Hardship Program component to the current Provincial Property Tax Deferment Program should be given serious consideration.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours Truly,



Linda Buchanan
Mayor of the City of North Vancouver

c.c. All B.C. municipal governments
UBCM
LMLGA
Bowinn Ma, MLA for North Vancouver-Lonsdale
Ralph Sultan, MLA for North Vancouver-Capilano
Jane Thornthwaite, MLA for North Vancouver-Seymour
Jordan Sturdy, MLA for West Vancouver-Sea to Sky
Terry Beech, MP for Burnaby North-Seymour
Hon. Johnathan Wilkinson, MP for North Vancouver
Patrick Weiler, MP for West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country