

March 11, 2021

File: 01-0390-20/21

UBCM Member Municipalities

Sent via email

Dear UBCM Members:

Re: Fair Taxation from Railway Operations & Industrial Parks

At its March 2, 2021 Regular Council Meeting, Pitt Meadows City Council endorsed two resolutions related to fair taxation from railway operations and industrial parks for inclusion and discussion at the upcoming LMLGA Convention, in advance of the UBCM Convention this fall. Certified copies of both resolutions and background information regarding same have been enclosed for your information.

Sincerely,
City of Pitt Meadows



Kate Barchard
Corporate Officer

Enclosure

CERTIFICATION

I, TANYA BARR, Deputy Corporate Officer for the City of Pitt Meadows, HEREBY CERTIFY that the following is a true and exact extract of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Pitt Meadows City Council held on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 regarding the Proposed Lower Mainland Local Government Association Resolution - CP Rail:

"It was MOVED and SECONDED THAT Council approve the following resolution and submit it to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) for consideration:

- A. *WHEREAS section 5(e) of the Assessment Act - Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation B.C. Reg. 438/81 mandates that land or improvements used for transporting of products or used for the storage of products are classified as Class 5 Light Industry, but specifically excludes land or improvements held for purposes ancillary to the business of transportation from railway operations;*

AND WHEREAS this legislation creates unfair taxation from railway operations because they are reflective of a class 5 Light Industrial use and require high level City service support including Fire Services and road infrastructure use;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the UBCM urge the Provincial Government to repeal section 5 (e) from the Assessment Act - Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation B.C. Reg. 438/81 in order to create fair taxation from railway operations.

CARRIED."



Tanya Barr
Deputy Corporate Officer
City of Pitt Meadows

March 4 / 21

Date Signed

CERTIFICATION

I, TANYA BARR, Deputy Corporate Officer for the City of Pitt Meadows, HEREBY CERTIFY that the following is a true and exact extract of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Pitt Meadows City Council held on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 regarding the Proposed Lower Mainland Local Government Association Resolution - Golden Ears Business Park:

"It was MOVED and SECONDED THAT Council approve the following resolution and submit it to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) for consideration:

- A. *WHEREAS section 5 (f) of the Assessment Act - Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation B.C. Reg. 438/81 mandates that land or improvements used for transporting of products or used for the storage of products are classified as Class 5 Light Industry, but specifically excludes land or improvements being used principally as an outlet for the sale of a finished product to a purchaser for purposes of his or her own consumption;*
- B. *AND WHEREAS this legislation creates unfair taxation from industrial parks which are a heavy burden on City infrastructure through heavy trucking activity in movement of product;*
- C. *THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the UBCM urge the Provincial Government to repeal section 5 (f) of the Assessment Act - Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation B.C. Reg. 438/81 to create fair taxation from industrial parks.*

CARRIED."



Tanya Barr
Deputy Corporate Officer
City of Pitt Meadows



Date Signed

Fair Taxation from Railway Operations

Background

At the March 2, 2021 Regular Meeting, Council passed a resolution seeking endorsement by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) regarding ending unfair taxation benefitting CP Rail.

CP Rail is in the business of moving goods for a wide range of industries. The Assessment Act categorizes property held for transporting products as Class 5 Light Industry.

However, the Assessment Act – Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation B.C. Reg. 438/81 section 5 (e) specifically excludes property held for purposes ancillary to business related to transportation from railway operations. The existence of this section results in creating unfair taxation by moving CP Rail property to Class 6 Business.

Recognizing the burden on city services in the provision of Fire Services and road infrastructure, removal of section 5 (e) would result in railway operations being more appropriately included within the Class 5 Light Industry classification. This action would create fairer taxation by including railway activities within the property class more relative to the nature of the operations.

Additional background information may be found in the January 19, 2021 Council Agenda package:

https://pittmeadows.ca.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=1208&meta_id=143659

Fair Taxation from Industrial Parks

Background

At the March 2, 2021 Regular Meeting, Council passed a resolution seeking endorsement by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA) regarding ending unfair taxation benefitting Industrial Parks.

Industrial parks are an area zoned and planned for the purpose of industrial development. Also, an industrial park is a more 'heavyweight' version of a business park or office park. The Golden Ears Business Park is a large-scale industrial park in Pitt Meadows. The concentration of industry in an industrial park raises environmental concerns from the heavy transportation volumes as well as the burden on road infrastructure with the constant movement of cargo on semitrailers.

The Assessment Act categorizes property held for transporting products as Class 5 Light Industry.

However, the Assessment Act – Prescribed Classes of Property Regulation B.C. Reg. 438/81 section 5 (f) specifically excludes property being used as an outlet for the sale of a finished product to a purchaser for purposes of his or her own consumption. The existence of this section results in creating unfair taxation by moving Industrial Park operations to Class 6 Business.

Recognizing the burden on city services in the provision of road infrastructure, removal of section 5 (f) would result in Industrial Park operations being more appropriately included within the Class 5 Light Industry classification. This action would create fairer taxation by including industrial park activities within the property class more relative to the nature of the operations.

Additional background information may be found in the January 19, 2021 Council Agenda package:

https://pittmeadows.ca.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=1208&meta_id=143659