

June 4, 2021

The Honourable Josie Osborne, MLA
Minister of Municipal Affairs
PO Box 9056 Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

The Honourable George Heyman, MLA
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
PO Box 9047 Stn. Prov. Gov.
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Ministers Osborne and Heyman,

RE: Province of British Columbia's (BC's) decision to end the BC Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP)

As you are aware, on May 11, 2021 the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs announced its decision to end CARIP. There has been very little information since then about whether a similar program will replace it or how local governments will be consulted in that respect.

The District of Squamish is deeply concerned with this decision and believes that it affects our collective ability to reach ambitious local, Provincial and Federal climate action goals and targets. The District has used CARIP funding to build a Carbon Neutral Reserve fund that is available to support a range of initiatives. In 2020, the District used funds to support the creation and initial implementation of a Community Climate Action Plan that outlines our community's pathway to achieving 45% emissions reductions by 2030 and toward net zero emissions in 2050. Funds were also spent on the procurement of electric bicycles for the corporate fleet. In 2021, funds are being spent on revamping the local community carbon marketplace and improving EV infrastructure to increase access.

The decision to end CARIP has negative implications for Squamish, and also for communities throughout BC. The following are some reasons why the cancellation of the Program is particularly damaging to communities as they work to address the climate emergency:

Loss of flexible funding: Communities were able to use CARIP funding for a variety of purposes, ranging from supporting staff positions, topping up provincial rebates for EVs or home retrofits, and running communications campaigns. Funding and granting programs are typically very specific, and there is currently no funding support available for many of the actions that a local government can and should take to address climate change.

Loss of reliable, non-competitive funding: There is currently no program that provides consistent funding over multiple years, and can be used for purposes such as supporting an ongoing position, program or campaign. Applying for grants is time consuming, difficult, and often very competitive. Many communities do not have the resources (in terms of time, skills and/or matching contributions) to successfully get grants, or this type of work is not a high Council priority. For communities such as these the CARIP funding may be the only specific funding earmarked for climate action.

Loss of consistent and coordinated community data: CARIP provides a consistent reporting mechanism for BC communities, and the methods and results are publicly available. In the absence of CARIP, communities may not report on emissions, and those that do are likely to use varying methods. Therefore, the loss of the Program represents an important loss of data.

Due to these and other reasons, Squamish Council strongly urges the Province of BC to reinstate CARIP until such time as consultation with local governments is complete and CARIP can be replaced with a similar, consistent, non-competitive program that is available to all municipalities. Our council and/or staff would be pleased to work with you on this process to ensure that we can develop a funding program that meets your needs and also provides local governments with access to funding that is crucial to our success in responding to the climate emergency.

Sincerely,



Karen Elliott, Mayor

CC: Premier John Horgan
Brian Frenkel, President UBCM
All BC Municipalities