



January 12, 2009

The Honourable James Flaherty
Minister of Finance
Finance Canada
140 O'Connor Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

Dear Minister Flaherty:

Re: 2009/2010 Federal Budget Submission

We are writing to provide you with recommendations from the Mayors of Metro Vancouver, North of the Fraser River, as you prepare the 2009/2010 federal government budget.

We feel that it is in the best interests of both our citizens, and the federal government, to form a regional consensus on what needs to be in the 2009 federal budget. As we enter uncertain economic times, it is vitally important that we work together in a coherent and productive manner, so that we can maximize the benefits of federal investment in our communities at a time when we need it the most.

Collectively, our municipalities contain over 1.3 million residents within the Metro Vancouver Region. Our cities and districts feature diverse populations living in both urban and suburban areas, and all of our municipalities have overlapping priorities, as well as needs specific to them.

We have two overarching priorities in our region that we wish to draw to your attention.

First, investing in transportation infrastructure is a top priority that could have a significant impact on our regional economy. Transportation infrastructure is very much a regional issue in Metro Vancouver, and federal investment in one municipality can benefit neighbouring cities and districts.

The Mayors of Metro Vancouver, North of the Fraser River, have reached a consensus that investment by the federal government in transportation infrastructure projects is the quickest, most effective way to boost our local economies. It will also meet economic, transportation, and environmental objectives that the federal government has laid out.

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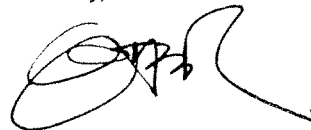
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Each municipality has its own set of transportation projects that can begin immediately with federal investment. Regionally, there are well-recognized needs with rapid transit, river dredging and greenway projects that link municipalities, which could begin construction within timelines that accommodate the federal government's objectives. Funding for municipal and regional transportation projects provides an opportunity for the synchronization of municipal and federal objectives.

Secondly, we would also like the federal government to consider investment in, and operating funds and tax incentives for, the construction of affordable and rental housing. Our region has some of the lowest vacancy rates in the country. The municipalities are wanting to work in partnership with the other levels of government and want to be part of the solution. Some municipalities in Metro Vancouver are willing to fast-track projects for federal investment that would accommodate your timelines. Tax incentives for the construction of rental housing would also provide a catalyst for private sector investment that would complement efforts made on the part of local, provincial, and federal governments.

We look forward to discussing our recommendations with you in the lead-up to the release of the 2009/2010 federal budget on January 27th.

Sincerely,



Gregor Robertson
MAYOR

cc: The Honourable John Baird, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
The Honourable Stockwell Day, Regional Minister for BC
Mayor Malcolm Brodie, City of Richmond
Mayor Derek Corrigan, City of Burnaby
Mayor Ernie Daykin, District of Maple Ridge
Mayor Pamela Goldsmith-Jones, District of West Vancouver
Mayor Don MacLean, City of Pitt Meadows
Mayor Greg Moore, City of Port Coquitlam
Mayor Darrell Mussatto, City of North Vancouver
Mayor Richard Stewart, City of Coquitlam
Mayor Joe Trasolini, City of Port Moody
Mayor Richard Walton, District of North Vancouver
Mayor Wayne Wright, City of New Westminster