

January 12, 2009

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

Dear Minister Flaherty:

**Re: 2009/2010 Federal Budget Submission**

As we embark on these trying economic times, Canadian municipalities echo the sentiments expressed by politicians and economists throughout the world on the value of infrastructure spending as an economic stimulus.

The Municipalities that lay South of the Fraser River in British Columbia are an important part of Canada's financial present and future. Currently home to a combined one million residents, almost three quarters of the region's future growth will occur in these municipalities. As a key part of the Asia-Pacific Gateway, the region is home to an international airport, the Fraser River Port and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest border crossing in Canada (which sees 700,000 trucks and \$17.5 billion in trade cross it every year. Clearly, the South of the Fraser communities are significant economic generators for the region, the province and the country.

New infrastructure projects will assist South of the Fraser municipalities by providing vital job creation and lasting infrastructure to enable our cities to continue to grow and positively impact our economy. After consulting with the Mayors of Metro Vancouver, South of the Fraser River (along with the Mayors of Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Hope), I would request that you consider the following recommendations for funding as you prepare the 2009/2010 federal government budget.

The primary infrastructure need of our region is an expansion of our transportation network. The rapid growth of our region has exceeded the growth of our transportation network. This has resulted in our South of the Fraser municipalities having insufficient public transit service and severe congestion on many of our major roads. This

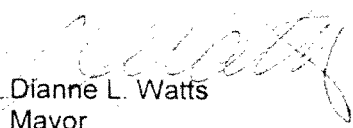
congestion often results in significant delays in the transportation of trade in and around our region. An investment in transportation infrastructure in our region would significantly expedite the flow of goods for local, regional and international trade. To this end, we have identified several significant projects that fit within the government's stated objective of providing one-time funding.

There is also consensus on the need for increased investment in affordable housing and social housing initiatives. We are prepared to work aggressively with our federal and provincial counterparts to identify opportunities that will allow all levels of government to increase the availability of housing for our residents.

Finally, there are a number of additional infrastructure projects on a community-by-community basis that require the attention and support of our federal government representatives that are included in the attached document.

We look forward to discussing these matters with you in the lead up to the release of the 2009/2010 federal budget on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,



Dianne L. Watts  
Mayor

cc: The Honourable John Baird, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities  
The Honourable Stockwell Day, Regional Minister for BC  
Mayor Lois Jackson, Corporation of Delta  
Mayor Catherine Ferguson, City of White Rock  
Mayor Peter Fassbender, City of Langley  
Mayor Rick Green, Township of Langley  
Mayor George Peary, City of Abbotsford  
Mayor Sharon Gaetz, City of Chilliwack  
Mayor Laurence French, District of Hope

**City of White Rock**

1. Sidewalk construction throughout the City
2. Upgrading the promenade with lighting, benches, public art, and hard surface improvements

**Township of Langley**

1. Expansion of South Langley Transportation corridor connecting Surrey, Langley Township, Abbotsford, Abbotsford Airport, Chilliwack and our border crossings within these respective communities
2. Implementation of Light Community Rail connecting Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Abbotsford Airport, Langley Township and Langley City with the Surrey connection to the Skytrain.

**City of Langley**

1. Fraser Highway/ Nicomekl Bridge Replacement
2. 208<sup>th</sup> Street Safety Improvement project – 44<sup>th</sup> Ave to 48<sup>th</sup> Ave

**City of Abbotsford**

1. Highway 1 Interchanges at McCallum Road and Clearbrook Road
2. Airport runway and apron expansions at Abbotsford International Airport

**District of Hope**

1. Replacement of 1930's era wood/steel narrow bridge
2. Collection and treatment of the leachate at the solid waste disposal site

**City of Chilliwack**

1. Flood prevention projects
2. Public Safety funding for a more equitable distribution of police costs

**Corporation of Delta**

Having been approached to contribute their comments: Delta Council indicated that they had already presented their requests to local MPs

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