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Ref: 129700

December 19, 2008

Her Worship Mayor Pamela Goldsmith-Jones
and Members of Council
District of West Vancouver
750 17th Street
West Vancouver, BC V7V 3T3

Dear Mayor Goldsmith-Jones and Councillors:

I am writing to update you on our 2009 Towns for Tomorrow and LocalMotion grant programs.

In October 2008, the Ministry of Community Development (Ministry) launched the 2009 version of these popular programs. At that time, we advised you that in response to your comments we were introducing significant improvements, including a simpler two-page application, a commitment to get back to you on decisions within 60 days of the application deadline, and the extension of the Towns for Tomorrow program to regional districts. Please note the next application intake deadline is January 16, 2009.

I know that many of you are now deciding which projects you will be putting forward for funding under these programs. As you do that, I ask you to give serious consideration to those projects that can get underway quickly. We have all seen the dramatic changes to the economy that have occurred over the past months and we all know that governments at all levels need to do what they can to create jobs as soon as possible. My commitment to you is that we will have our decisions to you by March 16, 2009. In return, I would like you to commit to getting approved projects started as early as possible so you can help put people in your communities to work. This spring is a critical time so I would strongly encourage you to think about how these projects can get started by May 30, 2009.

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To this end, please ensure you include information in your application regarding project construction start and end dates, as this information will form an important part of our project evaluation. This question was not in the original application forms, but needs to be clearly stated in the project descriptions/summary. Applicants should consider submitting applications for priority projects that have completed design work and are ready to construct. In particular, consideration should be given to those projects that are ready to break ground in spring 2009.

If you have any questions regarding these programs, please contact Ministry staff by telephone at: 250 387-4060.

Thank you for your work on behalf of British Columbia communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blair Lekstrom', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Blair Lekstrom
Minister