

Hon. Carol James
Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier
PO Box 9048, Stn Prov Govt,
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

October 7, 2019

Re: BC Port Property Tax Review

Dear Minister James,

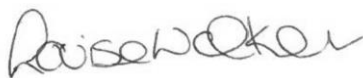
The Squamish Chamber of Commerce is the oldest and largest business organization in the Squamish community. We are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the community by actively supporting business, economic growth and diversification. The Squamish Chamber supports a thriving marine economy and working waterfront.

It is our understanding that the Government of B.C has started a review of the BC Port Property Tax Act (BCPPTA). We appreciate that good governance from time to time requires policy and program reviews. However, it is our understanding that marine and port stakeholders have only been recently invited into consultation with the Province and it appears this was some time after commencement of the policy review. We would like to encourage the Government of B.C to increase the consultation time and work with impacted stakeholders, including Squamish Terminals and the British Columbia Marine Terminal Operators Associations, on the review of the Ports Property Tax Act (PPTA).

Squamish Terminals (SQT) is a deep-water, break-bulk terminal located in Squamish. As one of the largest employers in Squamish, SQT provides significant economic benefit to the community. An increase in the consultation period will enable SQT and other impacted stakeholders to be at the table and sufficiently prepared with all the necessary research and report materials, to arrive at a well thought-out and successful conclusion. The review should be undertaken in a transparent manner within a realistic time frame to properly understand the potential impacts changes to the framework could have on labour and employment, capital investment and other critical areas impacting the marine industry, which could ultimately impact our local economy. As one of Squamish's largest employers, it is important that SQT and other stakeholders have a meaningful role in the review.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Louise Walker
Executive Director, Squamish Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Jordan Sturdy, MLA, West Vancouver – Sea to Sky; Hon Harry Bains, Minister of Labour