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John Horgan, Leader
Official Opposition
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Selina Robinson, M.L.A.
Coquitlam-Maillardville
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VILLAGE OF LYTTON

OCT - 6 2014

RECEIVED

October 2, 2014

Mayor Lightfoot and Councillors
Village of Lytton
Box 100
Lytton, BC
V0K 1Z0

Dear Mayor Lightfoot and Councillors:

My team and I enjoyed meeting so many dedicated mayors, councillors and directors at the 2014 UBCM convention last week. As I said in Whistler, you've had to work hard to get a fair shake for your communities in a time of dwindling resources and increased need.

We spoke with many of you about the timing and one-sided nature of the BC Public Sector Compensation Review. We are concerned that the timing of this report was more about embarrassing local government than addressing the issues UBCM has outlined in the Strong Fiscal Futures report. We also heard your disappointment about the Minister of Transportation Todd Stone's response to UBCM's excellent research on ferry fares and the BC economy. The report put out by AVICC and UBCM is the only research done to date studying the impact of ferry rates on local economies. Despite having no research of his own, the Minister dismissed that report and failed to address the impact of ferry fares on coastal economies.

The Premier in her talk to UBCM talked about working in partnership. We observe a gap between what is said by this government and how they actually interact with their partners.

We value the important work of local governments in our towns, rural areas, villages and cities. We recognize that senior levels of government have moved responsibility for problems to you, without the funding to address those problems. As a result, local governments are grappling with how to address the challenges of homelessness, addictions and mental health problems among others. It doesn't make sense and it doesn't serve BC residents. Our vision is that the provincial government will work closely with local government as partners in building stronger, more vibrant communities where British Columbia families and individuals thrive.

We paid close attention to the resolution work you did at UBCM and will monitor the government response to those resolutions. In Question Period and during Budget Estimate debates in the spring, we intend to remind the government to follow through on their commitments to you.

Your information and knowledge is invaluable to us in doing that work. As we head into the Legislature this October 6th I invite you to keep us informed about successes and problems you see in your community that we can help you to amplify.

Selina Robinson, our Opposition Spokesperson for Local Government, is your contact with our team. You can reach Selina by phone at 250-953-4701 in Victoria or 604-933-2001 in Coquitlam or by email at Selina.Robinson.mla@leg.bc.ca

To those of you running for re-election, we wish you the best of luck for the November election. To those of you choosing to end your time in local government, thank you for your service and dedication to your communities. We wish you all the best in the future.

Sincerely,



John Horgan, Leader
Official Opposition



Selina Robinson, MLA
Coquitlam-Maillardville