



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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March 25, 2020

File: 0110.00

Ms. Colleen Clark, ACE
CEO
Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce
207 – 8047 199 Street
Langley, BC V2Y OE2

Dear Ms. Clark,

Re: COVID-19, Reconsideration of 2020 Industrial/Commercial Property Tax

I am writing to confirm receipt of your March 19, 2020 letter regarding the above noted subject.

We recognize that these are challenging and unprecedented times, and we appreciate that the pandemic is having a significant impact on the business sector. I want to assure you that Council takes your concerns seriously and will consider your comments as we move forward.

You may be aware that municipalities from Metro Vancouver sent a letter to the Province on March 23, 2020 (attached) requesting the introduction of a tax deferment program to help struggling households, independent businesses, arts, culture, and NPO sectors in regards to property tax payments.

Additionally, we were pleased to hear from Finance Minister Carole James that same day that our provincial government has introduced a \$5-billion economic action plan to help families and businesses struggling financially through the COVID-19 crisis, with funding through income supports and tax relief. Within that plan, \$2.2 billion is allocated as relief for businesses and, eventually, to support them in their recovery after the pandemic. Some of the specifics announced by the Province today include:

- Extending tax filing and payment deadlines for a number of taxes until Sept. 30, including:
 - PST
 - Municipal and regional district tax
 - Tobacco tax
 - Motor fuel tax
 - Carbon tax

- Businesses with a payroll over \$500,000 can defer their employer health tax payments until the end of September.
- Business and light- and major-industry property classes will see their school tax cut in half (This will provide \$500 million in immediate relief for business that own their property and allow commercial landlords to immediately pass savings on to their tenants in triple-net leases).
- For the long-term, the province has allocated \$1.5 billion for economic recovery — especially the tourism, hospitality and culture sectors.

Thank you once again for advocating on behalf of the business community and bringing your concerns to our attention.

Yours truly,
CITY OF LANGLEY

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Val van den Broek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Val van den Broek
Mayor

cc: Councillors

Attachment: Letter to Premier Horgan and Minister Robinson