



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

MINISTER OF FINANCE

REFERRAL NUMBER: _____

REFER TO: MIN ☐ DM ☐ MA ☐ AC ☐

RECEIVED: **DEC 18 2017**

DRAFT ☐ REPLY ☐ INFO ☐ FILE ☐

REMARKS: _____



Sonia Furstenau, MLA
Cowichan Valley

December 15, 2017

Dear Minister James,

Recently, I met with ^{s.22} a Cowichan Valley constituent who has devoted many years to supporting the Roots of Empathy program in our region. She is asking for the program to be fully integrated into the school curriculum, with training provided to non-teaching staff to facilitate the program.

Roots of Empathy is a classroom program that introduces infants to school children in grades K-8. It is believed that interactions with infants at different stages of early life can increase social and emotional competence and empathy among school-aged students, and result in reduced levels of aggression among children.

The program requirements include one trained facilitator per school who will offer the program. Our school district has embraced the program because they recognize the educational and social value it has for elementary students; however, the current funding is not adequate to offer the program consistently throughout the district. The school board chair, Candace Spilsbury, shares ^{s.22} concern about the lack of trainers to expand to all schools in the district.

The goal is for the province to fund a facilitator for every school, with funding provided to that individual, which will reduce recurring training costs and make the program consistent throughout the school district.

^{s.22}

Candace Spilsbury can be contacted at cspilsbury@sd79.bc.ca

Thank you,

Sonia Furstenau
MLA for Cowichan Valley

Constituency Office
164 Station Street
Duncan BC V9L 1M7
Sonia.Furstenau.mla@leg.bc.ca

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MINISTER OF FINANCE

REFERRAL NUMBER: _____

REFER TO: MIN ☐ DM ☐ MA ☐ AC ☐

Sonia Furstenau, MLA
Cowichan Valley

RECEIVED: **JAN 31 2018**

DRAFT ☐ REPLY ☐ INFO ☐ FILE ☐

REMARKS: _____

Hon. Carole James
Minister of Finance
Victoria, BC
V8V 1X4

January 30, 2018

Dear Minister James,

I am writing in support of Cowichan Tribes' application, through agent Gulf Pacific Group, for federal and provincial funding for an RCMP Community Policing Office (CPO) on the Cowichan Band lands in Duncan, BC. My understanding is that Cowichan Tribes has been working on securing a formal commitment from the RCMP for a CPO in the Village Green Mall. The Band has expressed their continued and urgent needs for this service.

This Community Police Office is required for the safety, betterment, and well-being of the Cowichan Tribes, the City of Duncan, and the Cowichan Valley. As MLA for this region, I urge you to support this urgent and important initiative.

Thank you,

Sonia Furstenau
MLA for Cowichan Valley



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA



Sonia Furstenau, MLA
Cowichan Valley

MINISTER OF FINANCE

REFERRAL NUMBER: _____

REFER TO: MIN ☐ DM ☐ MA ☐ AC ☐

RECEIVED: **OCT 24 2017**

DRAFT ☐ REPLY ☐ INFO ☐ FILE ☐

REMARKS: _____

October 19, 2017

Dear Minister James,

Earlier this week, I met with Dr. Tom Warshawski from Childhood Obesity Foundation and Mary Collins from the BC Alliance for Healthy Living (formerly, BCHLA), who work together on the Rethink Sugary Drinks Coalition program.

They were advocating for provincial sales tax (PST) to be added to all sales of sugary drinks. Because these beverages are considered groceries, they are not subject to PST. If the province were to extend PST to include sugary drinks, they estimate conservative revenues of \$30M, reduced consumption, and improved personal responsibility for making healthy choices.

We have seen the positive impact of education about sugary drinks in the Cowichan Valley. Last spring, principal Dani Morrow and her staff at Alexander Elementary School challenged students to bring no sugary drinks to school and to see how much water they could consume instead. The students exceeded their target and were rewarded with a whole-school trip to the swimming pool. The challenge was such a success with students and parents—the majority of whom are from the Cowichan First Nation—that the school introduced the challenge again this fall, which became a national news item.

I support Dr. Warshawski and Ms. Collins's vision to improve child health in this way. Please implement their proposed change to the provincial sales tax.

Thank you,

Sonia Furstenau
MLA for Cowichan Valley

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Sonia.Furstenau.mla@leg.bc.ca

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Minister, FIN FIN:EX

From: Minister, FIN FIN:EX
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 2:40 PM
To: Furstenau.MLA, Sonia LASS:EX
Subject: Letter from Minister of Finance
Attachments: 361646 Furstenau.pdf

Please find attached a letter from the Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier.



January 15, 2018

361646

Sonia Furstenau, MLA
Cowichan Valley
164 Station Street
Duncan BC V9L 1M7

Dear Ms. Furstenau:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter of October 19, 2017, indicating your support for the Childhood Obesity Foundation and BC Alliance for Healthy Living proposal to extend the provincial sales tax to sales of sugary drinks.

I appreciate receiving input on how we can improve the tax system. Suggestions like this one assist in our evaluation of the tax system to ensure it meets the needs of British Columbians. As such, this request will be considered alongside other requests for tax changes as part of the annual budget process.

I would like to thank you again for your message.

Sincerely,

Carole James
Minister and Deputy Premier

Minister, FIN FIN:EX

From: Minister, FIN FIN:EX
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 3:59 PM
To: Furstenau.MLA, Sonia LASS:EX
Cc: Minister, MCF MCF:EX
Subject: Letter from Minister of Finance
Attachments: 363222 Furstenau.pdf; 363222 Incoming.pdf

Please find attached a response from the Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier.



January 10, 2018

363222

Sonia Furstenau, MLA for Cowichan Valley
Sonia.Furstenau.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear Ms. Furstenau:

Thank you for your letter of December 15, 2017, regarding Roots of Empathy program. Please accept my apology for the delay in responding.

I have forwarded a copy of your correspondence to my colleague, the Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development, for review and attention.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Carole James
Minister and Deputy Premier

cc: Honourable Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development