



354867

David Eby, MLA  
Vancouver Point Grey  
2909 West Broadway  
Vancouver BC V6K 2G6

Dear Mr. Eby:

Thank you for your letter of November 3, 2016, regarding Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch (GPEB) Horse Racing Drug Investigations.

Government takes seriously all<sup>s.22</sup> and our role in ensuring the maintenance of public confidence in the regulation of horse racing and British Columbia's gaming industry.

I have directed the Ministry to consider the best course of action to assess the allegations reported in your letter. <sup>s.22</sup>

s.22

Any such investigation will also need to take into account the

s.22

I can assure you that we will be looking into these allegations and taking whatever steps are necessary to determine their accuracy.

I would like to thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Michael de Jong, Q.C.  
Minister

cc: \_\_\_Athana Mentzelopoulos, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance  
\_\_\_Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland, Associate Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance

## Morgan, Melissa FIN:EX

---

**From:** Minister, FIN FIN:EX  
**Sent:** November 3, 2016 3:14 PM  
**To:** Edwardson, Jamie GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Menzies, Brian FIN:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to Minister re: Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch (GPEB) Horse Racing Drug Investigations  
**Attachments:** Letter to Min Finance from MLA David Eby\_11032016.pdf

---

**From:** Eby.MLA, David [mailto:David.Eby.MLA@leg.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 3, 2016 1:13 PM  
**To:** Minister, FIN FIN:EX  
**Subject:** Letter to Minister re: Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch (GPEB) Horse Racing Drug Investigations

Good afternoon:  
Please see attached for a letter from MLA David Eby to the Minister of Finance.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

**Gala Milne** | Constituency Assistant | David Eby, MLA Vancouver-Point Grey

加拉 米爾尼 | 省議員尹大衛選區助理

Official Opposition Spokesperson for Housing, Liquor, Gaming, PavCo and Translink  
P: 604-660-1297 | [gala.milne@leg.bc.ca](mailto:gala.milne@leg.bc.ca) | 2909 West Broadway Vancouver V6K 2G6  
<http://davidbymla.ca/>

Sign up for David's newsletter [by going here!](#)

Legislative Office  
Vancouver-Point Grey  
Room 201, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4  
Phone (250) 953-4736  
Fax (604) 680-0882

Community Office:  
2909 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V6K 2G6  
Phone (604) 660-1297  
Fax (250) 387-4680



David Eby, MLA  
(Vancouver-Point Grey)

November 3, 2016

Minister Mike de Jong  
Ministry of Finance

VIA E-MAIL: [FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister de Jong:

**Re: Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch (GPEB) Horse Racing Drug Investigations**

Recently I was contacted by <sup>s.22</sup> who brought forward serious allegations of <sup>s.22</sup> <sup>s.22</sup>

In particular, the informant alleges that <sup>s.22</sup> <sup>s.22</sup> <sup>s.22</sup>

including the following:

- An individual or individual(s) allegedly concealing the results of a positive <sup>s.22</sup> 2016 drug test for an individual who was permitted to continue operating <sup>s.22</sup> at the track and was not suspended;
- An individual or individual(s) permitting an individual who tested positive for oxycodone on <sup>s.22</sup> 2016 to continue to work on the track in the secure backstretch with access to 20 to 30 horses <sup>s.22</sup> for an extended period after the positive test, up to and including <sup>s.22</sup> <sup>s.2</sup> 2016; and,
- Following the positive test of a horse for methamphetamine on <sup>s.22</sup> (not a drug used to improve race horse performance) due likely to contamination by someone under the influence of methamphetamine, at least <sup>s.22</sup> individuals were tested and one tested positive for cocaine, <sup>s.22</sup> tested positive for cocaine and THC, and these individuals were not suspended.

The rules prohibiting illicit drug use by those with direct contact with horses on the track are there for good reason. These rules discourage individuals with an active addiction from having access to horses in a state of increased vulnerability to corruption or coercion; increase public safety in a sport that can be dangerous to both racers and horses; and, reduce the risk of contact contamination putting legitimately won purses at risk, compromising the reputation of BC gaming facilities unnecessarily.

This informant advises me that the informant believes that the service provider would have little tolerance for these kinds of activities at the track, and would be likely to dismiss and/or ban any individual employed by them who tested positive for illicit substances.<sup>s.22</sup>  
s.22

The informant also advises me that the informant believes that these may not be the only examples of  
s.22 under the influence of illicit drugs maintaining active horse racing licenses.

I respectfully request that you immediately establish an investigation<sup>s.22</sup>  
s.22 into these allegations so that any systemic issues can be identified and  
addressed.<sup>s.22</sup>  
s.22

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

Yours truly,



David Eby  
MLA, Vancouver Point Grey  
Official Opposition Spokesperson for Gaming

## **Morgan, Melissa FIN:EX**

---

**From:** Minister, FIN FIN:EX  
**Sent:** November 14, 2016 9:52 AM  
**To:** Eby.MLA, David LASS:EX  
**Cc:** Mentzelopoulos, Athana FIN:EX; Wenezenki-Yolland, Cheryl FIN:EX  
**Subject:** Letter from the Honourable Michael de Jong  
**Attachments:** GPEB Horse Racing Drug Investigations.pdf

Dear Mr. Eby:

Please find attached a response from the Minister of Finance.

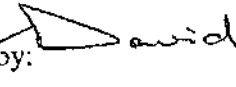
Sincerely,

Office of the Minister



354867

David Eby, M.L.A.  
Vancouver Point Grey  
2909 West Broadway  
Vancouver BC V6K 2G6

Dear Mr. Eby: 

Thank you for your letter of November 3, 2016, regarding Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch (GPEB) Horse Racing Drug Investigations.

Government takes seriously all<sup>s.22</sup> and our role in ensuring the maintenance of public confidence in the regulation of horse racing and British Columbia's gaming industry.

I have directed the Ministry to consider the best course of action to assess the allegations reported in your letter. <sup>s.22</sup>

s.22

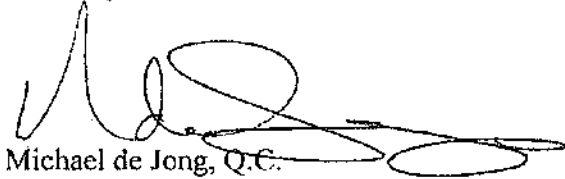
Any such investigation will also need to take into account the

s.22

I can assure you that we will be looking into these allegations and taking whatever steps are necessary to determine their accuracy.

I would like to thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



Michael de Jong, Q.C.  
Minister

cc: Athana Mentzelopoulos, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance  
Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland, Associate Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance



355130

David Eby, MLA  
Vancouver – Point Grey  
Province of British Columbia  
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Eby:

As you may be aware, the Government of British Columbia announced in June 2016 the creation of a dedicated Office of the Superintendent of Real Estate to regulate the real estate industry. In October 2016, Micheal Noseworthy was appointed to this position. Mr. Noseworthy is currently in the process of recruiting additional staff to ensure he can fulfill the expanded mandate of the office.

I would like to offer to you a briefing from Mr. Noseworthy on the mandate of his office and the office's approach to real estate regulation. If you are interested in a briefing, please contact Mr. Noseworthy at 604 660-3538 to set up a mutually convenient time.

Sincerely,

Michael de Jong, Q.C.  
Minister

cc: Micheal Noseworthy, Superintendent of Real Estate

# Ministry of Finance SIGN-OFF SHEET

**Item:** ☐BN for Information ☒BN for Decision ☒Correspondence ☐OIC  
☐Other

**Issue:** Offer to brief on new Office of the Superintendent of Real Estate's regime

**CLIFF #:** 355130

Date initiated: November 10, 2016 Final Due on: \_\_\_\_\_

Approvals Required:	Reviewer	Reviewer Initial	Approval	Date Signed
Drafter	Chris Dawkins			
Executive Director	Chris Dawkins		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
ADM	Heather Wood		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
DM	Athana Mentzelopoulos		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
Notes:				

**Included are the following:** (check all that apply)

- ☒ Correspondence
- ☐ Incoming
- ☐ Memo
- ☐ OIC
- ☐ Briefing Note
- ☐ Certificate
- ☐ Other:




**Ministry of Finance  
SIGN-OFF SHEET**

**Item:** ☐ BN for Information ☒ BN for Decision ☒ Correspondence ☐ OIC  
☐ Other

**Issue:** Offer to brief on new Office of the Superintendent of Real Estate's regime

**CLIFF #:** 355130

**Date initiated:** November 10, 2016 **Final Due on:** \_\_\_\_\_

Approvals Required:	Reviewer	Reviewer Initial	Approval	Date Signed
Drafter	Chris Dawkins			
Executive Director	Chris Dawkins		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	2016 Nov 12
ADM	Heather Wood		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
DM	Athana Mentzelopoulos		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
<b>Notes:</b>				

**Included are the following:** (check all that apply)

- ☒ Correspondence
- ☐ Incoming
- ☐ Memo
- ☐ OIC
- ☐ Briefing Note
- ☐ Certificate
- ☐ Other:

**Ministry of Finance  
SIGN-OFF SHEET**

**Item:** ☐ BN for Information ☒ BN for Decision ☒ Correspondence ☐ OIC  
☐ Other

**Issue:** Offer to brief on new Office of the Superintendent of Real Estate's regime

**CLIFF #:** 355130

Date initiated: November 10, 2016 Final Due on: \_\_\_\_\_

Approvals Required:	Reviewer	Reviewer Initial	Approval	Date Signed
Drafter	Chris Dawkins			
Executive Director	Chris Dawkins	<i>CD</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	2016 Nov 16
ADM	Heather Wood	<i>HW</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	Nov. 17/16.
DM	Athana Mentzelopoulos		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
<b>Notes:</b>				

**Included are the following:** (check all that apply)

- ☒ Correspondence
- ☐ Incoming
- ☐ Memo
- ☐ OIC
- ☐ Briefing Note
- ☐ Certificate
- ☐ Other:

**Ministry of Finance  
SIGN-OFF SHEET**

**Item:** ☐ BN for Information ☒ BN for Decision ☒ Correspondence ☐ OIC  
☐ Other

**Issue:** Offer to brief on new Office of the Superintendent of Real Estate's regime

**CLIFF #:** 355130

Date initiated: November 10, 2016 Final Due on: \_\_\_\_\_

Approvals Required:	Reviewer	Reviewer Initial	Approval	Date Signed
Drafter	Chris Dawkins			
Executive Director	Chris Dawkins	<i>CD</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	<i>2016 Nov 16</i>
ADM	Heather Wood	<i>HW</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	<i>Nov. 17 / 16</i>
DM	Athana Mentzelopoulos	<i>AM</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
<b>Notes:</b>				

**Included are the following:** (check all that apply)

- ☒ Correspondence
- ☐ Incoming
- ☐ Memo
- ☐ OIC
- ☐ Briefing Note
- ☐ Certificate
- ☐ Other:

Legislative Office:  
Room 201, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4  
Phone: 250 387-3666  
Fax: 250 387-4600

Community Office:  
2909 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V6K 2G6  
Phone: 604 680-1287  
Fax: 604 660-0862  
e-mail: David.Eby.MLA@leg.bc.ca  
www.clavlibymila.ca



Province of  
British Columbia  
Legislative Assembly



David Eby, MLA  
(Vancouver-Point Grey)

July 7, 2016

Minister Mike Dejong  
Ministry of Finance  
Parliament Buildings, Victoria BC

VIA FAX: 250-387-5594

Dear Minister Dejong:

**Re: Deferral of property taxes for residential leasehold property**

A significant number of my constituents live on the UBC Peninsula in the University Neighbourhoods. For these communities, UBC sells leasehold - not freehold - properties to homebuyers, and has done so for quite some time.

The older condos and townhomes at UBC have appreciated considerably in price due to the success of UBC's south campus development, in addition to all of the factors driving the ongoing housing affordability crisis generally in the Lower Mainland.

Unfortunately, the province's property tax deferral program for families and seniors is not available for people in leasehold housing on the peninsula, despite the same concerns of rising property taxes for seniors being a serious issue here among long-time homeowners. This unfairness has hit particularly hard in the Hampton Place neighbourhood of UBC where many of my constituents bought relatively affordable condos early in UBC's development history.

As a result of the price appreciation in these leasehold homes, I have been contacted by a number of lower income seniors who are being displaced out of their own homes because of rising property taxes that the province will not let them defer. I respectfully request that you ask your staff to review the property tax deferral program to ensure it applies fairly to residential leasehold property for seniors who need this program to stay in their homes. I look forward to hearing from you on this matter on an urgent basis.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours truly,

David Eby, MLA  
Vancouver-Point Grey

bcgov.

**Ministry of Finance  
SIGN-OFF SHEET**

**Item:** ☐BN for Information ☐BN for Decision ☒Correspondence ☐OIC  
☐Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Issue:** Deferral of property taxes for residential leasehold property

**CLIFF #:** 351878

Date initiated: July 19, 2016 Final Due on: July 20, 2016

Approvals Required:	Reviewer	Reviewer Initial	Approval	Date Signed
Drafter	Duncan Jillings			
Director			<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
Executive Director	Paul Flanagan	<i>PF</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
ADM	Heather Wood	<i>HW</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	<i>July 19/16</i>
DM	Athana Mentzelopoulos	<i>Am</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
<b>Notes:</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <i>(*) please return a copy to me (incoming &amp; Response)</i> </div>				

**Included are the following:** (check all that apply)

- ☐ Correspondence
- ☒ Incoming
- ☐ Memo
- ☐ OIC
- ☐ Briefing Note
- ☐ Certificate
- ☐ Other: OIC package documents



351878

David Eby, MLA  
Vancouver-Point Grey  
Room 201, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Dear Mr. Eby:

Thank you for your letter of July 7, 2016, regarding the exclusion of leasehold properties from the province's Land Tax Deferment Program.

The provincial Property Tax Deferment Program provides loans to eligible taxpayers to help them pay their property taxes on their principal residence. An important requirement for this loan is that the government is able to use the taxpayer's interest in their home – the equity they have accumulated – as the security for the loan.

Because of the nature of leasehold properties, the government is not able to obtain adequate security for the loan. This is because the value of a leasehold agreement is difficult to evaluate, particularly as its value changes over the term of the lease. In addition, if the lease expires or is cancelled, the taxpayer would no longer have an interest in the property and the government would have difficulty collecting the loan.

I would like to thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Michael de Jong, Q.C.  
Minister



351966

David Eby, MLA  
Vancouver Point Grey  
2909 W Broadway  
Vancouver BC V6K 2G6

Dear Mr. Eby,

In response to your request for information at the Ministry of Finance Estimates debate held on May 17, 2016, regarding the *Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch 2014/15 Annual Report*, please see the explanations below.

Regarding your questions about the apparent increase in *Gaming Control Act* (GCA) violations, the Branch found that the 2014/15 *Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch Annual Report* tabled in the legislature May 17, 2016, contained administrative errors that have subsequently been corrected.

Due to a change in the way incidents were reported between 2013/14 and 2014/15, the 2014/15 Table 7 showed a seven-fold increase in GCA violations. After a review by Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (GPEB) staff, it was discovered that if the reporting methodology had remained consistent, GCA violations would have *decreased* from 2013/14.

GCA violations reported in the *Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch 2014/15 Annual Report* include incidents of minors purchasing lottery products or attempting to enter into a casino, lottery retailer violations such as stealing tickets and individuals who are barred or who have voluntarily excluded themselves from gaming facilities attempting to enter a casino or community gaming centre.

The apparent increase is fully attributable to the inclusion of voluntary self-exclusions (VSEs) and prohibited patrons under the heading of GCA Violations. The 2013/14 report did not include VSE and prohibited patrons as a result of a general change to exclude those types of activities that do not require substantial GPEB investigative resources. The Branch has revised the 2014/15 report to remove the VSEs and prohibited patrons' violations in the calculation of GCA violations. The revised GCA violations necessarily impact the total incidents reported as well.

.../2

Regarding your questions about the outcomes of Commercial Gaming Audits, the audits reported in the *Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch 2014/15 Annual Report* found that the majority of lottery retailers inspected are highly compliant with government rules, BCLC policies and procedures, and past Ombudsman recommendations. The Branch does not assign a measure of compliance to each inspection, and issuing tickets for violations is not part of the Inspector's role.

Regarding your questions about Appendix D, "Sources and Distribution of Gaming Revenues," few projects are currently active, which is the reason for the decline. It remains open to the local governments and service providers to claim to the full extent of their agreements, which generally run until 2020.

The reason the amounts fluctuate has to do with the variability of the activity that the parties to the agreement undertake. They earn Development Assistance Compensation (DAC) room according to a per cent of net gaming income, but must also incur and submit eligible expenses in order to claim against that room.

The specific reasons for the decline from 2013/14 to 2014/15 are:

- There are 3 agreements.
- The Penticton agreement does not have any active projects.
- The City of New Westminster's remaining process has experienced severe regulatory delays, which have delayed their ability to claim under the agreement at this time.
- In Cranbrook, the Ktunaxa and the service providers have not reached agreement as to the priority projects; consequently, they have not yet incurred significant eligible expenses.

I trust this is satisfactory.

Sincerely,

Michael de Jong, Q.C.  
Minister



**Ministry of Finance  
SIGN-OFF SHEET**

**Item:** ☐ BN for Information ☐ BN for Decision ☒ Correspondence ☐ OIC

☐ Other ["Other" is checked, add type of document here]

**Issue:** Estimates Response - David Eby

**CLIFF #:** 351966

Date initiated: \_\_\_\_\_ Final Due on: \_\_\_\_\_

Approvals Required:	Reviewer	Reviewer Initial	Approval	Date Signed
Drafter				
Director			<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
Executive Director	ED's name		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
ADM	Tara Richards	JR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	July 13/16
DM	Athana Mentzelopoulos		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
<b>Notes:</b>  <i>(If needed, add specific due date or action that is required, e.g. item needs to be tabled in the house or delivered to the Clerk's office.)</i>				

**Included are the following:** (check all that apply)

- ☒ Correspondence
- ☐ Incoming
- ☐ Memo
- ☐ OIC
- ☐ Briefing Note
- ☐ Certificate
- ☐ Other: Appendix A – Hansard transcript

## Oliphant, Michael FIN:EX

---

**From:** Eby.MLA, David <David.Eby.MLA@leg.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** January 19, 2017 1:18 PM  
**To:** Minister, FIN FIN:EX  
**Subject:** Res.22 Lease-Hold Property Tax Deferment Program and Penalties  
**Attachments:** s.22 consent to release of personal information and additional documents\_011917.pdf; Letter to Min de Jong res.22 property tax deferment program and penalties\_011917.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Actioned Feb 3, Draft - Minister's sig, Draft - Reply Direct from FIN

Dear Minister de Jong,

Please find a letter and additional document from MLA David Eby, attached.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Anna Lindsay-Baugh** | Constituency Assistant | David Eby, MLA Vancouver-Point Grey

安娜 林恩宝 | 省議員尹太衛選區助理

Official Opposition Spokesperson for Housing, Liquor, Gaming, PavCo and Translink

P: 604-660-1297 | [anna.lindsay-baugh@leg.bc.ca](mailto:anna.lindsay-baugh@leg.bc.ca) | 2909 West Broadway Vancouver V6K 2G6

<http://davidbymla.ca>

Sign up for David's newsletter [by going here!](#)

CONSENT TO RELEASE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

I consent to allow MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
to release my personal file information to my Member of the Legislative Assembly,  
David Eby, or his Constituency Assistants: Gala Milne, Anna Lindsay-Baugh and  
Lucinda Yeung.

The consent is limited to information required to answer the enquiry about the  
following issue:

PROPERTY TAX, LATE FEES AND  
LEASEHOLD DEFERMENT FOR  
s.22

that I have requested assistance with on (date) JAN 18, 2017.

I understand and acknowledge that this enquiry may reveal sensitive private and  
otherwise confidential information.

s.22

Page 20 of 34 to/à Page 22 of 34

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.21; s.22

**Legislative Office**  
Vancouver-Point Grey  
Room 201, Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4  
Phone (250) 953-4736  
Fax (604) 660-0862

**Community Office:**  
2909 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V6K 2G6  
Phone (604) 660-1297  
Fax (250) 387-4680



David Eby, MLA  
(Vancouver-Point Grey)

January 19, 2017

Minister Mike de Jong  
Ministry of Finance

VIA EMAIL: [FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Dear Minister de Jong:

**Re: <sup>s.22</sup> Lease-Hold Property Tax Deferment Program and Penalties**

I am writing to you on behalf of my constituent, <sup>s.22</sup> was denied his application for a property tax deferment on his leasehold property. As you know, I have written to your Ministry in the past to request that this program be extended to leasehold property owners given the increasing popularity of this form of ownership in Metro Vancouver.

When <sup>s.22</sup> applied for tax deferment, there was no notice on the Ministry's application form or website concerning this program that leasehold properties are not eligible for the tax deferment program.  
<sup>s.22</sup>

Unfortunately, <sup>s.22</sup> application was refused because his condo is a leasehold condo at UBC. Beyond the simple unfairness of this program not being open to leasehold owners in BC, during the time  
<sup>s.22</sup>

Thank you in advance for your review of the appropriateness of fees in this specific situation, as well as what I hope will be your Ministry's commitment to review staff training and the information provided to the public on your application form and website. Staff should, at a minimum, be trained to advise people to pay their taxes immediately during the pendency of their application to avoid late fees. Further, leasehold property owners should be advised prominently on the website and on the application form that their properties are not eligible for this program. The efficiencies of providing good information to prospective applicants as early as possible in the process are obvious.

Again, I also encourage you to reconsider the refusal to grant participation in this program to leasehold property owners. Banks and credit unions freely grant mortgages and homeowner equity lending to

leasehold property owners; it seems strange that the provincial government would not similarly be willing to extend credit to those struggling with escalating property tax bills in leasehold housing.

I have attached to this email a consent to release of personal information from <sup>s.22</sup>, as well as correspondence he received from the Property Tax Deferment Program, and his timeline of events.

s.22 respectfully requests a response in writing.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DEB', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Eby  
MLA, Vancouver Point Grey


**Ministry of Finance  
SIGN-OFF SHEET**

**Item:** ☐ BN for Information ☐ BN for Decision ☒ Correspondence ☐ OIC  
☐ Other

**Issue:** Letter to tax payer regarding Lease-Hold Property Tax  
Deferment Program and Penalties

**CLIFF #:** 356825

Date initiated: Click here to enter a date. Final Due on: Click here to enter a date.

Approvals Required:	Reviewer	Reviewer Initial	Approval	Date Signed
<b>Drafter</b>	Choose name			
<b>Director</b>	Kally Khaira		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	March 08, 2017
<b>Executive Director</b>	Steven Emery		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	March 08, 2017
<b>ADM</b>	Elan Symes		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	March 15, 2017
<b>DM</b>	Athana Mentzelopoulos		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
<b>Notes:</b>				

**Included are the following:** (check all that apply)

- ☒ Correspondence
- ☐ Incoming
- ☐ Memo
- ☐ OIC
- ☐ Briefing Note
- ☐ Certificate
- ☐ Other: Explain



356832

David Eby, MLA  
Vancouver Point Grey  
2909 West Broadway  
Vancouver BC V6K 2G6

Dear Mr. Eby:

As a follow-up to my November 14, 2016 response to your letter of November 3, 2016, regarding the Horse Racing Unit (HRU) of the Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch (GPEB), I would like to advise you that the matters you raised have been thoroughly reviewed by an independent third party, and I am able to provide you with a certain amount of information about the conclusions, while still respecting government's duty to protect employee personal privacy.

I directed the Ministry to consider the best course of action to assess the allegations, and I am advised that Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland, Associate Deputy Minister of Finance, engaged George Morfitt to conduct an independent review. In addition to being a former auditor general, Mr. Morfitt is also well-informed about horse-racing rules, governance and regulation. He has previously served on several Administrative Review Hearing panels for the GPEB and he advised government in the development of a new financial model for the horse racing industry. For this review, Mr. Morfitt was directed to give specific consideration to the allegations, as well as to evaluate general operations and policies of the HRU with respect to drug use in horse racing.

Government's duty to personal privacy prevents me from reporting on each specific circumstance raised in your letter.

Broadly, however, Mr. Morfitt found that the HRU operates within the legal authority defined in the *Gaming Control Act*, the horse racing policies and rules. While Mr. Morfitt provided some recommendations related to operational policies, which have been accepted by GPEB and are being implemented by the HRU, his overall findings are that the drug testing and sanctioning process currently followed by the HRU is comprehensive and comparable to those of other

.../2

Ministry of Finance

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 9048 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria BC V8W 9J2  
Telephone: 250 387-3751  
Facsimile: 250 387-5594

Location:  
501 Belleville Street  
Parliament Buildings, Victoria  
website:  
[www.gov.bc.ca/fin](http://www.gov.bc.ca/fin)



Canadian jurisdictions, the unit applies horse racing industry best practices, and the unit has an established approach of regular review and improvement.

Overall, I am pleased with the Ministry's responsiveness to this matter and that this review by an impartial and knowledgeable individual has been completed quickly and thoroughly, and that the findings confirm the unit is following best practices.

Again, I would like to thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Michael de Jong, Q.C.  
Minister

cc: Athana Mentzelopoules, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance  
Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland, Associate Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance

# Ministry of Finance SIGN-OFF SHEET


Item: ☐ BN for Information ☐ BN for Decision ☒ Correspondence ☐ OIC

☐ Other If "Other" is checked, add type of document here

Issue: GPEB horse racing drug investigations


CLIFF #: 356832

Date initiated: Click here to enter a date. FEB 15/17 Final Due on: Click here to enter a date.

Approvals Required:	Reviewer	Reviewer Initial	Approval	Date Signed
Drafter	Choose name			
Director	Choose name		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
Executive Director	ED's name		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
Associate DM	Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	<u>FEB 15/17</u>
Choose an item.	Choose name		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
<b>Notes:</b> <i>(If needed, add specific due date or action that is required delivered to the Clerk's office.)</i>				

Included are the following: (check all that apply)

- ☒ Correspondence
- ☐ Incoming
- ☐ Memo
- ☐ OIC
- ☐ Briefing Note
- ☐ Certificate
- ☐ Other: Explain

  
INITIAL



356832

David Eby, MLA  
Vancouver Point Grey  
2909 West Broadway  
Vancouver BC V6K 2G6

Dear Mr. Eby:

As a follow-up to my November 14, 2016 response to your letter of November 3, 2016, regarding the Horse Racing Unit (HRU) of the Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch (GPEB), I would like to advise you that the matters you raised have been thoroughly reviewed by an independent third party, and I am able to provide you with a certain amount of information about the conclusions, while still respecting government's duty to protect employee personal privacy.

I directed the Ministry to consider the best course of action to assess the allegations, and I am advised that Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland, Associate Deputy Minister of Finance, engaged George Morfitt to conduct an independent review. In addition to being a former auditor general, Mr. Morfitt is also well-informed about horse-racing rules, governance and regulation. He has previously served on several Administrative Review Hearing panels for the GPEB and he advised government in the development of a new financial model for the horse racing industry. For this review, Mr. Morfitt was directed to give specific consideration to the allegations, as well as to evaluate general operations and policies of the HRU with respect to drug use in horse racing.

Government's duty to personal privacy prevents me from reporting on each specific circumstance raised in your letter.

Broadly, however, Mr. Morfitt found that the HRU operates within the legal authority defined in the *Gaming Control Act*, the horse racing policies and rules. While Mr. Morfitt provided some recommendations related to operational policies, which have been accepted by GPEB and are being implemented by the HRU, his overall findings are that the drug testing and sanctioning process currently followed by the HRU is comprehensive and comparable to those of other

.../2

Canadian jurisdictions, the unit applies horse racing industry best practices, and the unit has an established approach of regular review and improvement.

Overall, I am pleased with the Ministry's responsiveness to this matter and that this review by an impartial and knowledgeable individual has been completed quickly and thoroughly, and that the findings confirm the unit is following best practices.

Again, I would like to thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Michael de Jong, Q.C.  
Minister

cc: Athana Mentzelopoulos, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance  
Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland, Associate Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance



356832

David Eby, MLA  
Vancouver Point Grey  
2909 West Broadway  
Vancouver BC V6K 2G6

Dear Mr. Eby:

As a follow-up to my November 14, 2016 response to your letter of November 3, 2016, regarding the Horse Racing Unit (HRU) of the Gaming Policy Enforcement Branch (GPEB), I would like to advise you that the matters you raised have been thoroughly reviewed by an independent third party, and I am able to provide you with a certain amount of information about the conclusions, while still respecting government's duty to protect employee personal privacy.

I directed the Ministry to consider the best course of action to assess the allegations, and I am advised that Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland, Associate Deputy Minister of Finance, engaged George Morfitt to conduct an independent review. In addition to being a former auditor general, Mr. Morfitt is also well-informed about horse-racing rules, governance and regulation. He has previously served on several Administrative Review Hearing panels for the GPEB and he advised government in the development of a new financial model for the horse racing industry. For this review, Mr. Morfitt was directed to give specific consideration to the allegations, as well as to evaluate general operations and policies of the Horse Racing Unit with respect to drug use in horse racing.

Government's duty to personal privacy prevents me from reporting on each specific circumstance raised in your letter.

Broadly, however, Mr. Morfitt found that the horse racing unit operates within the legal authority defined in the *Gaming Control Act*, the horse racing policies and rules. While Mr. Morfitt provided some recommendations related to operational policies, which have been accepted by GPEB and are being implemented by the HRU, his overall findings are that the drug testing and sanctioning process currently followed by the HRU is comprehensive and comparable to those of

.../2

other Canadian jurisdictions, the unit applies horse racing industry best practices, and the unit has an established approach of regular review and improvement.

Overall, I am pleased with the Ministry's responsiveness to this matter and that this review by an impartial and knowledgeable individual has been completed quickly and thoroughly, and that the findings confirm the unit is following best practices.

Again, I would like to thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Michael de Jong, Q.C.  
Minister

cc: Athana Mentzelopoulos, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance  
Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland, Associate Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance


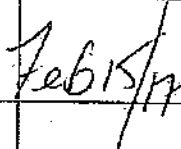
**Ministry of Finance  
SIGN-OFF SHEET**

Item: ☐BN for Information ☐BN for Decision ☒Correspondence ☐OIC  
☐Other If "Other" is checked, add type of document here \_\_\_\_\_

Issue: GPEB horse racing drug investigations

CLIFF #: 356832

Date initiated: \_\_\_\_\_ Click here to enter a date. Final Due on: \_\_\_\_\_ Click here to enter a date.

Approvals Required:	Reviewer	Reviewer Initial	Approval	Date Signed
Drafter	Choose name			
Director	Choose name		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
Executive Director	ED's name		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
Associate DM	Cheryl Wenezenki-Yolland		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
Choose an item.	Choose name		<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/ Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Rewrite	
<b>Notes:</b> <i>(If needed, add specific due date or action that is required, e.g. item needs to be tabled in the house or delivered to the Clerk's office.)</i>				

Included are the following: (check all that apply)

- ☒ Correspondence
- ☐ Incoming
- ☐ Memo
- ☐ OIC
- ☐ Briefing Note
- ☐ Certificate
- ☐ Other: Explain \_\_\_\_\_

## **Oliphant, Michael FIN:EX**

---

**From:** SBOWRY <Sanjay.Bowry@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** February 27, 2017 11:39 AM  
**To:** Bowry, Sanjay FIN:EX  
**Subject:** Eby - Horse Racing  
**Attachments:** Scan\_20170227.pdf