



September 9, 2019

Mayor and Council, City of Coquitlam
3000 Guildford Way
Coquitlam, BC V3B 7N2

Mayor and Council, City of Port Moody
100 Newport Drive
Port Moody, BC V3H 5C3

Dear Mayor and Council,

City of Port Coquitlam Mayor West and Council would like to challenge our neighbours Coquitlam and Port Moody to help sponsor a young community member for a trip of a lifetime!

[The Sustainable Living Leadership Program \(SLLP\)](#) is an annual and unique outdoor education program for community leaders, consisting of a 29-day, 1,400 km journey of a lifetime down the Fraser River, from Headwaters to Sea. Throughout the journey participants develop a Watershed Solution project plan which they implement in their home community upon return. Each year up to 10 community leaders are chosen from across the Fraser Watershed.

As one of the Rivershed Society of BC's (RSBC) most successful programs, the SLLP has run fourteen times since 2002, producing 103 graduates. The goal of the SLLP is to create a network of effective, passionate and supported leaders within Fraser Watershed communities. Leaders who will galvanize other community members to take responsibility for conserving, protecting and restoring BC's riversheds

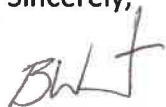
In 2016, Port Coquitlam resident Petra Markova was sponsored by Councillor Laura Dupont to take part in the SLLP. Upon her return, Petra collaborated with a fellow Tri-Cities SLLP graduate and RSBC to design, develop and deliver a Rivers Clinic for Environmental Leaders (RCEL) with the intention of connecting local post-secondary students with shared sustainability interests. The program, now in its third year, is incredibly successful and Petra has now expanded the program to include a Rivers Clinic for Empowered Youth (RCEY) in the Nechako region.

The support that Petra received from Councillor Dupont makes her hopeful that other emerging leaders will be given the same opportunity for what she describes as a "life-changing experience" adding that "Laura has been a valuable mentor and super supportive of youth in

our community. The paddle trip was an amazing month long experience and I am so grateful to her for the opportunity”.

The SLLP 2020 applications will be available in January 2020 with an application deadline of March 31, 2019. Please feel free to contact my office with any inquiries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BWL', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Mayor Brad West

Cc: City of Port Coquitlam Council
Kristen Dixon, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Port Coquitlam