Reference: 357707

June 3, 2020

His Worship Mayor Rob Vagramov and Councillors
City of Port Moody
PO Box 36
Port Moody BC V3H 3E1

Sent via email: rvagramov@portmoody.ca

Dear Mayor Vagramov and Council:

Thank you for your letter of April 29, 2020, which was also addressed to the Honourable John Horgan, Premier; the Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation; and the Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture, regarding support for a Coastal Protection Strategy in British Columbia. I am pleased to respond on behalf of my colleagues.

The B.C. coastline is iconic and integral to our province’s environmental and economic interests. Our government is actively engaged in a variety of initiatives that aim to protect the coastal environment and support the long-term sustainability of marine uses and activities. These include:

- B.C.’s ability to apply the Land Act to marine and coastal areas under provincial jurisdiction, including coastal straits and submerged lands, as well as the natural resources and marine resources (Strait of Juan de Fuca, Strait of Georgia, Johnstone Strait and Queen Charlotte Strait, as well as waters and submerged lands between major headlines, including bays, estuaries and fjords).
- B.C.’s protected areas system provides for the protection and maintenance of important natural and cultural values. These include ecological reserves, provincial parks, conservancies, recreation areas and protected areas.
- In September 2019, the Government of Canada and the Province jointly announced the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund, an investment of up to $142.85 million over five years to support protection and restoration activities for priority wild fish stocks, including salmon, as well as projects that will ensure the fish and seafood sector in B.C. is positioned for long-term environmental and economic sustainability.
We work bilaterally with the Government of Canada through the Oceans Coordinating Committee and the Regional Committee on Oceans Management to provide strategic and technical expertise to advance integrated planning and management of our ocean resources.

Together with all Indigenous communities on the Pacific North Coast, B.C. and federal partners are collaborating to create a regional plan that all may use during a marine pollution incident. This planning encompasses numerous tasks, including assessing risks, identifying areas of concern, and developing information sharing protocols and geographic response strategies.

A changing climate is one of the key factors shaping our society, including our homes, health, economy and natural environment. Preparing for climate change is about understanding these changes and developing appropriate measures so we are ready for climate impacts now and in the future. The Province is developing a climate preparedness and adaptation strategy (CPAS) to help ensure we are ready to reduce risks resulting from B.C.’s changing climate, including changes in sea level, loss of marine biodiversity and ocean acidification. The City of Port Moody has been invited to a local government session to provide input into the CPAS on June 25, 2020, with a special focus on urban communities. Please help us create a strategy that will consider the issues that coastal communities face.

While we are not immediately considering new legislation in this area, we are always open to discussion and to exploring new ideas for how we can better coordinate and protect our ocean resources for the benefit of all British Columbians and Canadians.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

George Heyman
Minister

cc: Honourable John Horgan, Premier
Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture