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Dear Executive Committee Members:

As you know, on Saturday August 29, Metro Vancouver was hit by a windstorm that knocked out power to thousands of homes and caused havoc in the city. Unfortunately, our yearly festival event was scheduled for the same day.

After we had set up everything and the rain that we thought was going to be the problem ceased, we were forced to cancel the event due to the gusty winds that threatened the safety of our contractors, vendors, volunteers and most of all our guests.

Our festival organizing committee spent several months meeting, deliberating, planning, and preparing for that day. Therefore, the decision to cancel was a last resort and certainly was not taken lightly. Given the severity of the wind and the damages it has caused around the city, it is by God's grace that no one was injured by flying canopy tents chairs and tables.

However, it quickly became evident that the Ethiopian Community Association had suffered a huge financial loss. For example, several of our newly purchased canopy tents were destroyed and there were several other expenses we have incurred.

We are kindly asking you to refund us the \$1,492 we paid for the field use and other utilities. We are reaching out and asking for your help, so we can recover our loss. Mother Nature is unpredictable and what happened on August 29 is not anyone's fault.

Sincerely,

Afewerk Woldetsadik, Secretary

Ethiopian Community Association of BC