



August 4, 2021

Ref: 267793

Their Worship Mayor Mike Hurley  
City of Burnaby  
4949 Canada Way  
Burnaby BC V5G 1M2

Dear Mayor Hurley:

Thank you for your letter of July 2, 2021, addressed to the Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance, regarding the wind down of the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP).

As you are likely aware, CARIP was introduced, in part, to encourage local governments to sign the Climate Action Charter. Since the program launched a decade ago, 187 local governments have signed the Charter, more than 50 local governments have achieved carbon neutrality in their corporate operations, and many others, including the City of Burnaby, have taken significant steps toward reducing emissions in their communities. However, we know more can be done. That is why our government is exploring new ways to support local governments in reducing emissions and creating complete, compact, energy-efficient communities.

I appreciate your concerns about wrapping up CARIP, the information you provided about how CARIP has enabled the City's climate actions, and your feedback for creating an effective replacement program. Our government remains committed to working with local governments to reach our climate goals and make life better for people across British Columbia. We hope to have more to say about local government engagement in the coming months.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



Josie Osborne  
Minister

pc: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance  
Janet Routledge, MLA, Burnaby North



CITY OF BURNABY  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
MIKE HURLEY  
MAYOR

2021 July 02

MINISTER OF FINANCE

REFERRAL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

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RECEIVED: JUL 14 2021

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REMARKS: \_\_\_\_\_

Honourable Selina Robinson, MLA  
BC Minister of Finance  
PO Box 9048 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Robinson:

**Subject: Cancellation of the BC Provincial Climate Action Revenue Incentives Program (CARIP)**

In May 2021, the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs announced its decision to end the BC Climate Action Revenue Incentives Program (CARIP). Leading up to this announcement, and since, there has been little information on programs to replace CARIP, and how the Province will consult local governments on replacements.

The City of Burnaby is gravely concerned with this decision and believes it affects our collective ability to reach the ambitious and critical local, Provincial and Federal climate action goals and targets.

With CARIP funding, the City of Burnaby created a Climate Action Reserve Fund, enabling the City to hire their first climate action employees and to develop the City's Climate Action Framework. The Framework maps out the City's path to reach the targets arising from the City's declaration of a climate emergency: to reduce city greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 45% by 2030, and reach carbon neutrality by 2050.

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Our Vision: A world-class city committed to creating and sustaining the best quality of life for our entire community.

The Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program fills an important role to support local governments in BC to initiate, plan and implement climate action. CARIP funding enables multi-year planning and capacity building on climate action. It has seeded the start of many sustainability and climate action departments across the province, funded GHG-reducing actions and climate adaptation plans, and leveraged multiple funding sources for the implementation of these plans.

The cancellation of the CARIP, without any programs to bridge or replace CARIP, has short and long-term impacts. Due to the particular niche that CARIP filled, the City of Burnaby sees the cancellation and absence of replacement programs as producing the following losses:

**The loss of flexible funding:** The flexibility of the use of CARIP allows local government to target work that suits their local context: for staffing, for rebate top-ups and for specific projects, to name a few. Local governments have access to few of these flexible funding sources that provide the opportunity for the municipality to resource climate action strategically, and in some cases, there are no sources of funding available for specific types of climate action at all. The flexibility of CARIP is also used by local governments to amplify grant funding and climate action, with CARIP being used both as matching funds for federal, provincial, utility and private grants where this is required and for funding internal staff time to apply for and win further grants.

**Loss of reliable, non-competitive funding:** Reliable annual funding enables local government to plan multi-year projects and staffing, both of which contribute to the long-term trust-based solutions that are required to reach deep GHG emission reductions in our communities. Applying for grants is competitive, time-consuming and onerous. Municipalities do not always have the time or experience to compete for and win grants, making CARIP the sole source of climate action funding in many cases.

**Loss of consistent and coordinated community GHG data:** CARIP provides consistent, transparent and comparable municipal data that is reported publicly. The CARIP reporting process ensures that climate action is discussed at least annually with Council, prompts cross-departmental communication and engagement on climate action to complete reporting requirements, and has built a long-term record of municipal greenhouse gas emission data and actions. In the absence of CARIP, reporting on municipal climate action may disappear, or become inconsistent across local governments.

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The Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program is unique, and has enabled creative, resourceful climate action across British Columbia. The City of Burnaby urges the province to reinstate the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program until such time as consultation with local governments is complete and CARIP can be replaced with a similar flexible, reliable, non-competitive funding program for all municipalities.

We would be happy to work with the Province to contribute to the design of a program that fits the needs of the Province while enabling local governments to maintain and accelerate the action needed to address our collective climate emergency.

Yours truly,

Mike Hurley  
MAYOR

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4949 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2 ❖ Phone 604-294-7340 Fax 604-294-7724 ❖ [mayor@burnaby.ca](mailto:mayor@burnaby.ca)