



July 27, 2016

Ref: 168252

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

Dear Mr. Eby:

Thank you for your letter of July 6, 2016, regarding concerns about the Metro Vancouver public works yard.

Metro Vancouver has initiated a process to locate a permanent facility for its Pacific Spirit Regional Park operations centre. That operations centre has been temporarily located within the University Endowment Lands (UEL) public works yard as a collection of portable buildings, tool sheds and shipping containers, on the edge of a sensitive riparian area. However, those buildings are reaching the end of their service life.

Some time ago, Metro Vancouver approached the Province of British Columbia, through the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO), to secure more permanent tenure on that site and was advised that it would not be possible on the limited Crown land available in the UEL. Metro Vancouver has had facilities within the regional park in the past, which may make it a viable location for a park's operations centre.

As you may be aware, FLNRO has overall management of the Province's Crown land inventory. Crown lands are managed with a view to ensuring the best use of those lands for British Columbians, both now and in the future.

While your concerns about Metro Vancouver's initiatives and any particular sites under review are best directed to Metro Vancouver, I am happy to outline the UEL's understanding of Metro Vancouver's process and considerations.

In 2014, Metro Vancouver Parks planning staff advised UEL Administration that they were looking at options for an operations facility site within the expansive Pacific Spirit Regional Park. As you may be aware, Pacific Spirit Regional Park occupies approximately five-eighths of the land base within the UEL. Metro Vancouver Parks planning staff had preliminarily identified some 15 potential locations within the park, primarily on the basis of prior disturbance to the land in those locations. Metro Vancouver's intent was to refine that number through further investigation before proceeding with public consultation.

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At the time, it was noted that the site within the regional park adjacent to the Area C neighbourhood (which you refer to as a community park) would likely be of concern to residents, yet also had some features amenable to an operations facility (e.g., prior disturbance, utilities and access).

On June 22, 2016, Metro Vancouver hosted an open house for preliminary consultation on seven possible sites of which three, in the opinion of Metro Vancouver staff, warranted further investigation – including the site adjacent to the Area C neighbourhood. Notably, a number of UEL and neighbouring community residents have raised concerns about this particular location.

Metro Vancouver has not made any final decisions about particular sites and the consultation process is expected to continue in the fall. Additionally, feedback can also be submitted online until July 29, 2016, through Metro Vancouver's website. I encourage UEL residents with interests or concerns in this issue to provide input to Metro Vancouver and participate in the consultation process.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Fassbender', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Fassbender
Minister

pc: The Honourable Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations