



Reference: FLNR 225330/CSCD 169483

November 25, 2016

David Eby, MLA
Vancouver–Point Grey
Room 201, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, British Columbia
V8V 1X4

Via Email: david.eby.mla@leg.bc.ca

Dear David Eby:

We are writing in response to your letter of October 25, 2016, regarding the question of whether fulsome and open communications have been taking place related to the management and potential future management of the University Endowment Lands (UEL) public works yard, which is also the temporary location of the Pacific Spirit Regional Park operations centre.

As this works yard is located on Crown land, the responsibilities of the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations were articulated in the letter of August 25, 2016, in which Minister Thomson stated that “we will share appropriate information with all the concerned parties if and when the discussions progress to a stage that a decision is required with respect to the future of the Metro Vancouver public works yard in its current location.” British Columbia takes the management of information and the protection of privacy seriously and we diligently follow the requirements of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA), which prohibits the public release of some types of information. Examples of these exemptions include personal information about citizens, discussions confidential to Cabinet and information that could harm the business interests of a third party.

From a Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development (CSCD) perspective, we offer the following comments. On University Endowment Land (UEL) governance, we agree that governments should strive to work with community members. This is exactly why we are proceeding with a UEL community information initiative to publicly share with the entire UEL community some of the facts that have emerged from the CSCD’s work to date. The initiative will also provide an opportunity to better understand the perspectives of the community, namely in relation to its current services and its service priorities moving forward. In mid-November, Minister Fassbender met with representatives of the Community Advisory Council and other area representatives to share with them the details of the initiative.

David Eby, MLA

As indicated in the previous update of October 18, 2016, CSCD remains committed to launching a governance study for the UEL at the appropriate time—perhaps later in 2017. The nature, format, scope, process and potential outcomes of a governance study in the unique environment of the UEL have not yet been determined, but will need to be carefully considered before a study is launched. Shaping a future study for the UEL will take some time, and will require input from key stakeholders.

Thank you again for writing and sharing concerns on behalf of your constituents.

Sincerely,



Steve Thomson
Minister of Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations



Peter Fassbender
Minister of Community, Sport and
Cultural Development