

***UBC Neighbourhoods
Taxation Working Group***

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By Email (CSCD.minister@gov.bc.ca)

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
PO Box 9056 Stn Prov Govt.
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister:

UBC Neighbourhoods—Fire Service Charge

We were extremely disappointed to receive your response of July 18 to our letters of June 5 and May 23, 2016 (the latter to your colleague, the Minister of Finance). Disappointed because your response continues to reflect the misunderstanding of taxation in the UEL that we pointed out in our letters. And disappointed because you responded without giving us an opportunity to meet with you.

As we explained in detail in our letters, your decision has been based, in part, on incorrect information regarding taxation in the UEL as compared to taxation in the UBC neighbourhoods. If you had been given the correct information, you would realize that the province already taxes us unfairly relative to UEL residents. The fire service charge will make the unfairness even greater. The treatment of our community relative to the UEL violates one of the fundamental principles of good tax policy, namely the principle of equity and fairness that calls for similarly situated taxpayers to be taxed similarly.

Once again, we respectfully request a meeting with you. A community of 11,000 residents is surely entitled to be heard by the decision maker when the decision has such an adverse impact on the community's financial position.

We should give you a little information about the members of the Taxation Working Group. While we are participating in the group as individual residents and not in our official capacities, Ying Zhou and Laura Cottle are elected directors of the University Neighbourhoods Association (UNA). Ying is the UNA's Treasurer and the Chair of the UNA Board's Finance and Audit Committee. Bill Holmes is the Alternate Director for Metro Vancouver's Electoral Area A (Maria Harris is the Director) and a retired tax lawyer. George Mackie is a former senior UBC academic administrator.

We look forward to confirmation that you will meet with us.

Yours sincerely,



William Holmes



George Mackie



Ying Zhou

cc: The Honourable Michael de Jong, Q.C., Minister of Finance
The Honourable Andrew Wilkinson, Minister of Advanced Education
David Eby, MLA, Vancouver-Point Grey
Jacquie Dawes, Deputy Minister, Community, Sport and Cultural Development
Richard Alexander, Chair and President, University Neighbourhoods Association
Michael White, Associate Vice President, Campus and Community Planning, UBC