

CITY OF
LANGLEY



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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March 18, 2014

The Honourable Peter Fassbender
Minister of Education
Parliament Buildings
P.O. Box 9041
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Minister:

RE: SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 35 - SCHOOL SITE ACQUISITION CHARGE

At the March 17, 2014 Regular Meeting of Council, City Council considered your letter of February 20, 2014 to Wendy Johnson, Chair, Langley Board of Education regarding the new School Site Acquisition Charge (SSAC). At the meeting, City Council expressed their extreme disappointment over the imposition of the new SSAC in spite of significant inequities in costs and benefits to the two affected municipalities. The City strongly believes that we have clearly demonstrated the inequities with the proposed SSAC based on a thorough and objective review of the facts and made a well formulated business case for establishing different fees as provided for in Section 937.91(g) of the *Local Government Act*.

The City was surprised that your decision was based on merit of the Eligible School Site Proposal (ESSP) which required the City to challenge the necessity of individual school sites factored into the SSAC calculation rather than categories of sites (e.g. elementary or secondary). At no time during the consultation process with the School District was it mentioned that the ESSP would be the determining factor of the establishment of the new SSAC. Furthermore, the rather onerous requirement is not clearly stated in the Ministry's *Implementation Guide*.

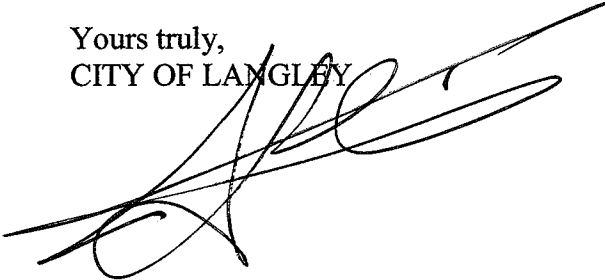
As noted in Chair Johnson's letter of November 19, 2013 to you, it was referenced that the rejection of the ESSP by a municipal council would lead to the appointing of a facilitator by the Ministry to resolve the dispute between the parties. To this end, it was our intention and certainly our expectation to work through our differences with the School District through the facilitator. We believe the position taken by the Ministry to reject the appointment of a facilitator is not the right decision based on the reasons outlined above.



The City of Langley is asking the Minister to reconsider its decision and appoint a facilitator to work with the City and the School District to resolve this matter based on the principle of fairness and equity as articulated in the *Implementation Guide*.

Thank you for considering the City's position on this matter.

Yours truly,
CITY OF LANGLEY

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted Schaffer', written over the typed name and title.

Ted Schaffer
Mayor

cc: Langley City Councillors
Board of Trustees, Langley School District No. 35
Mayor and Councillors, Township of Langley

