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FEB 19 2021

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, PC, MP
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Freeland,

As Member of Parliament for Coquitlam-Port Coquitlam, I write to express the priorities of my community for the 2021 budget. I thank you for your dedicated work to address the health and economic concerns of Canadians resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

After meeting with various stakeholders, experts and constituents in my community, I seek the following investments in the upcoming Budget.

1. Protecting and Restoring our fish populations

Ensuring our fish populations are protected and restored is vitally important to British Columbians, particularly First Nations communities.

- Ageing flood control structures in the lower mainland are having a detrimental impact on wild Pacific salmon. To alleviate this strain, proactively fund flood-control projects in British Columbia that maximize return on investment through nature-based, fish-friendly solutions, paired with habitat restoration at affected sites. In the short term, direct an investment of \$25 million over five years to high-priority regions such as the lower Fraser River, where projects site have already been identified. In the long-term, establish focused, long-term, and stable funding to ensure work can be accomplished in a systematic and organized manner by local government and First Nations. Direct \$100 million over ten years for flood management response in the lower Fraser River through existing federal infrastructure funding, such as the BC Salmon Restoration Innovation Fund (BCSRIF)

- Increase DFO funding to local, grassroots hatcheries to enable the purchasing of efficient, eco-friendly equipment rather than prioritizing cost-effectivity over sustainability and widen funding to include operating costs.
- The Pacific Wild Salmon strategy does not reference the work of the hatcheries - unfairly comparing them to fish farms – and provides no funding to unrecognized, small-scale hatcheries. Establish a program to fund small-scale hatcheries and ensure they have the resources they need to accomplish their vital work.

2. Seniors

- Delivering on our promise to increase OAS and GIS for seniors across the board.
- Increase funding opportunities through the New Horizons for Seniors Program.
- Increase the Canada Pension Plan.
- Delivering on creating National Standards for Long-Term Care.

3. Addressing Homelessness & Affordable Housing

- The COVID-19 pandemic has hit non-profits relying on donations and volunteers particularly hard. Increased, broad funding is needed to ensure community groups can continue delivering programs.
- Per diem increase for support and recovery needed to increase capacity and resources available while working to ease operational costs for non-profit organizations.
- Establish an endowment fund that goes towards operations to help non-profits using shelters at the market-rate.
- Invest in housing cooperatives, with all affordable units (under market level), with some rent geared towards income subsidies to increase housing affordability at any income level.
- Increased funding for youth-based housing initiatives to address vulnerable youth and homelessness while recognizing root causes such as mental health and substance abuse.

4. Supporting New Canadians

- Allocate more funds to increase settlement services and address the integration needs of the new Canadians.

5. Supporting Vulnerable Canadians

- Establish a grassroots fund for community groups and non-profit organizations to research the systemic causes towards unaffordability as we build back better. And ensure that allocated funds accurately address issues faced by vulnerable Canadians.

6. Addressing Systemic Racism

- Establish a national program to address increasing racism and discrimination towards BIPOC Canadians, with a particular focus on rising Anti-Asian racism due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

7. Protecting our Environment

- Scale-up investments in nature and Indigenous-led conservation with a plan that is commensurate with the commitment to protect 25 percent of land, inland water and ocean by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030
- Utilize a climate lens on all investments made in Budget 2021

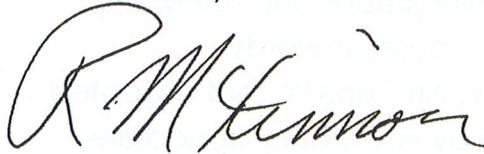
Coquitlam-Port Coquitlam Pre-Budget Consultation Community Survey

To better reach my constituents and their concerns during these unprecedented times, I created an online Pre-Budget Consultation Community Survey. The results reflected our community investment priorities through the following issues:

- Job creation and income support for Canadian workers
- Tax fairness for middle-class Canadians
- Affordable housing
- Improving health care,
- Increased support for seniors
- Support for Science and Industry
- Investing in Infrastructure

These Budget 2021 asks were the result of careful consideration and extensive consultations with community, stakeholders and experts. Your support will have a significant impact on helping support my exceptional community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ron McKinnon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ron McKinnon, MP

c.c.: The Honourable Mona Fortier, PC, MP