



# VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL



June 19, 2020

**VIA Email:** The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Canada –  
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable John Horgan, M.L.A, Premier of the Province of British  
Columbia – premier@gov.bc.ca

Greetings,

**Subject: Municipalities Need Funding**

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I am writing in follow up to our letter of April 21, 2020, to further urge the federal and provincial governments to work together and provide emergency operating funding for municipalities in order to protect the vital local services we all need.

As you know, municipal workers are on the front lines going flat out to deliver the public services that keep us safe during COVID-19. But responding to this pandemic has left municipal governments in financial crisis. Their revenues have collapsed and unanticipated costs are soaring.

The federal government recently announced it will fast track \$2.2 billion in annual infrastructure funding, paid out of the gas tax fund, to municipalities. This modest step will help some municipalities with immediate liquidity issues. However, it is not new funding — it is money that has already been accounted for in municipal budgets. The federal and provincial governments must do more to help municipalities address the serious financial crisis they are facing.

Without financial help, municipalities will be forced to cut the vital local services that families and communities rely upon, like emergency services, transit, libraries, parks, roads and other essential infrastructure.

On top of that, our municipalities are major economic engines for our country and this financial crisis is a threat to Canada's economic recovery. Other levels of government must step up and provide financial support to our municipalities.

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To: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier John Horgan and All MP's and  
MLA's In Vancouver and District Labour Council Jurisdiction  
Subject: Municipalities Need Funding

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Once again, I urge the federal and provincial governments to provide emergency operating funding for municipalities in order to protect the vital local services families need and to enable our municipalities to drive the strong economic recovery we are all counting on.

Sincerely,



Stephen von Sychowski  
President, Vancouver and District Labour Council

cc: VDLC Executive Board  
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