

From:
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 10:28 AM
To: Mayor&Council <Mayor&Council@nanaimo.ca>
Subject: Covid 19 support and recovery for municipalities

Dear Mayor Krog and Nanaimo City Council

I hope this email finds you, your families and your staff healthy and safe.

It has been a very busy time for me and my team as we help constituents and businesses in our community deal with the COVID-19 crisis. I am in continual contact with various ministers and parliamentary secretaries, as well as on daily technical briefings and weekly committee meetings, all of which are opportunities for me to bring forward issues that constituents, businesses and organizations are dealing with. I have been busy identifying gaps in the relief programs and working with the government to fill those gaps and suggesting solutions for helping Canadians further.

For the past month, I have been advocating for a municipal bail-out to help with the drop in revenue from closed facilities, the loss of user fees and the increase in costs related to the crisis. I am also aware that businesses and home-owners have been requesting deferred property taxes and service fees, and that defaults on these payments will only exacerbate problems for municipalities. Despite the drop in revenues, municipalities are expected to continue to provide a list of essential services for their communities including fire, police, water, sewage and waste management.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities made a presentation to the Finance Committee last week that received some push-back from the official opposition. I want you to know that the Green Party caucus supports the requests from the FCM. We will continue to advocate strongly for financial help for municipalities.

I am writing to you today to see if there are any specific needs or requests you have for federal government assistance during this crisis to help alleviate financial strain, and for ways that your residents could be better served. I am also checking in to see what needs and opportunities you have identified for the recovery and revitalization of our economy. Some parts of the economy are going to be easier and more practical to revive than others. For example it will be some time before we will see a revival of international tourism in our region.

The indications we have received from the government are that projects that provide safe employment, improve the quality of life for people, and help with the transition to a clean economy, are going to be the priority for stimulus spending for the recovery. If there are shovel-ready projects on your books that help to address the climate crisis, the affordable housing crisis, and create a more resilient and regenerative economy, those are projects that should be promoted to the federal government.

As we work through this crisis and start to think about a post crisis revival please feel free to reach out to me at any time. My staff are answering calls and emails from 9-5 Monday to Friday. The office number is 250-734-6400 and the email address is Paul.Manly@parl.gc.ca.

All the best

Paul Manly



Paul Manly

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