



January 15, 2020

Ref: 250338

Muneesh Sharma, Director  
Government Affairs and Communication  
Building Owners and Managers Association  
556-409 Granville St  
Vancouver BC V6C 1T2

Dear Muneesh Sharma and Co-Signers:

Thank you for your letter addressed to the Honourable John Horgan, Premier, regarding the creation of a new commercial property sub-class for municipalities. I apologize for the delay in responding.

Let me begin by assuring you that my ministerial colleagues and I are fully aware of the impact that significant property tax increases are having on the economic viability of small businesses and the art, culture and non-profit sector in Metro Vancouver. We also understand the important role these enterprises play in supporting a healthy provincial economy and vibrant communities.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff worked closely with the Ministry of Finance to evaluate the request and determined it was not feasible to implement a sub-class for 2020 as the introduction would entail significant legislative amendments, substantial operational impacts and could lead to undetermined potential tax shifts to other property owners. Potential implementation of a new sub-class continues to be actively explored for the future; in the meantime, government is also planning to introduce an interim solution to mitigate the impacts of increased property taxes for the 2020 tax year.

Thank you again for your feedback. I look forward to sharing the details of Government's decision with you and your colleagues at the earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Selina Robinson".

Selina Robinson  
Minister

pc: Honourable John Horgan, Premier  
Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance