



May 3, 2023

Ref: 272120

Their Worship Mayor Victor Cumming
and Members of Council
City of Vernon
3400-30th St
Vernon BC V1T 5E6

Dear Mayor Cumming and Councillors:

Thank you to the leadership of the City of Vernon for meeting with me during my tour of the Kootenay-Okanagan region on January 20, 2023. It was a pleasure to connect with new and familiar faces, and hear directly about your community's priorities. We appreciated your hospitality in hosting us in your community.

Being on the front lines of service delivery, municipal and regional leaders understand the opportunities and challenges faced by communities today—including housing, healthcare, public safety, and economic development. Our government is motivated to work with you as partners to ensure a prosperous and sustainable province for future generations.

I appreciated hearing about the growth in your community, and ways in which the City is addressing needs through higher-density and infill development. You highlighted a need for further progress with the Port Okanagan project, and we have shared your concerns with our provincial partners at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MECCS) and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. If you would like to discuss further, I encourage you to reach out directly by email at: ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca and Minister.MOTI@gov.bc.ca

We also discussed the watershed in Vernon, including your concerns related to wildfires and prevention management. It was helpful to hear about your past outreach with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, the Ministry of Forests, and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness. Recognizing that this is an inter-ministerial issue, ministry staff have reached out to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, and encourage you follow up with them by email at: WLRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca.

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Since we met, our government has announced and allocated the [Growing Communities Fund](#) to help build community infrastructure and amenities to meet the demands of unprecedented population growth. The fund provides a one-time total of \$1 billion in grants to all 188 municipalities and regional districts for recreation facilities, parks, water treatments plants, and other community infrastructure. I am pleased that the City of Vernon received \$9,575,000 from the Growing Communities Fund to put to good work in your community.

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with me, and for highlighting these important issues. As partners, we can work together to deliver on these priorities to improve the lives of British Columbians. I look forward to our next meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Kang', written in a cursive style.

Anne Kang
Minister

pc: Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Patti Bridal, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Vernon