

September 18, 2020

Premier John Horgan and,
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, George Heyman,
PO Box 9041 STN PROV GOVT,
Victoria, B. C.,
V8W 9E1

Re: Commute trip reduction

Dear Sirs:

The *Climate Change Accountability Act* is an important piece of legislation that will manage the efforts of British Columbians to achieve a healthy and sustainable environment. The work of *CleanBC* must be realized should we have any hope of doing our part to protect the planet and our province. It is with these expectations that I trust government will proceed with integrity to earn the trust of the citizens of British Columbia and hopefully be a model to the world. In my opinion, anything less will breed cynicism and distrust and the vision will not be realized.

It is clear that the reduction of carbon emissions is a major plank in the policy and vision of the legislation. Within that strategy it is being suggested that the reduction of commutes will be a major activity that can realize the goal and targets of reduced carbon emission.

My letter of support zeroes in on the possibility of reducing commutes for members of the educational structure of our province. After having spent forty-four years in the educational system in a multitude of positions I believe I can speak with some authority as to how that system and its employees work, live and learn. Anecdotally I can recount many conversations with colleagues and employees who will support all of the documented research that supports the beliefs that reduced commuter activity will support all of the claims in the domains of physical, mental, social health and work performance.

Discovering methods and means to achieve the goal of reduced commuter activity will require true resources (read funding), an honest process of collegiality to build trust and a process of "out of the box" thinking to consider and develop structures and strategies. A criticism of government strategies is that policies to achieve are off loaded to the structures in the government without any of the above elements. When this is done, nothing gets done but the expression of cynicism and resistance. It is one thing to have a laudable piece of legislation. Now we need a champion who is oozes integrity, leadership and is able to inspire and gather the stakeholders in a concerted activity with the sole effort of helping people feel like winners while achieving goals and targets.

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Dialogue and transparency must be evident as real processes and real engagement to create the energy necessary. This must be in association with real funding that is within the means of the province.

It is my strong belief that the citizens of British Columbia will work collaboratively to achieve the targets and the goals of *CleanBC* when they are honestly led and included.

Yours truly,

David Pitre

Retired/Former:

Vice Chair, Board of Trustees, Greater Victoria School District #61,
Associate Superintendent, Greater Victoria School District #61,
Director of Education, Greater Victoria School District #61,
Principal of various schools, Greater Victoria School District #61
Teacher/Counsellor of various schools, Greater Victoria School District #61