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The Honourable Carole James
Minister of Finance

July 29, 2020

Dear Minister James,

The UEL Community Advisory Council is submitting our position on the School Tax, written by one of our residents. As we have previously highlighted in meetings and other communication with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Tax is a considerable burden to many of our community members and addressing it is one of our priorities.

In a December 2019 letter to our community, your Ministry highlighted that the School Tax goes to supporting the government's plan to tackle the housing crisis. It is difficult for the CAC to understand how funds taken from community members are supporting a multifamily project through the MMAH's Housing Hub in our single-family area, above the clear objections of residents. We are working toward having a park on the site, and would like the Ministry's support on this project.

In addition to MMAH support for a project the community does not want in the single-family area, we are losing purpose-built rental housing to condos in our multifamily area. We have already lost one building to condos and are immanently facing the loss of another. We need MMAH support to make sure we do not lose any more rental housing.

In short, the UEL CAC is calling on the Ministry of Finance to eliminate the School Tax and the Ministry of Housing to support improved housing outcomes for our community.

Regards,

UEL Community Advisory Council

Cc: The Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Jonn Braman, Manager, University Endowment Lands
The Honourable David Eby, M.L.A. Vancouver Point Grey