

**MLA Russell
Boundary-Similkameen
PO Box 1592
Grand Forks, BC V0H 1H0**

Dear MLA Russell:

I am writing to you today as your constituent, to encourage you to support these funding priorities in this year's Provincial budget:

- **Respect Indigenous rights & honour the BC government's commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:**
 - Fund Provincial staff to work with the Sinixt Peoples, who were falsely declared extinct, to officially recognize them as the First Nation they continue to be.
 - Completely withdraw the militarized RCMP presence and stop any related funding from Wet'suwet'en territory and respect the 1997 ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada which recognized that it is the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs who are the rightful titleholders to the land.
- **End poverty in BC:** Implement a Guaranteed Livable Income which will eliminate poverty and ensure every British Columbian can meet their basic needs.
- **End the corporate handouts:** Eliminate the deep well royalty credit and other subsidies embedded in the royalty system, do not allow for these in the budget.
- **Protect BC's last remaining old-growth forests:** Ensure stable funding to assist forestry-reliant communities (both First Nations and settlers) to protect old-growth forests and develop economic alternatives to old-growth logging. Ensure funding goes to workers, not big companies.
- **Protect species at risk:** Ensure funding for ministry staff to enact species at risk legislation to protect BC's unique wildlife and the more than 1,800 current species at risk, as your party promised it would deliver this legislation in 2017.
- **Sustainable transportation systems:** Provide more funding for local governments to implement better and more electrified public transit and active transportation infrastructure.

- **Support a sustainable transition:** Provide funding to ensure workers in old growth forest and fossil fuel industries are able to transition to new jobs in the low-carbon economy starting right now with this budget. Support workers transition directly and do not give public financing to extraction companies.
- **Support an update of the BCUC:** Provide funding to ensure the BCUC can be updated to support power production from clean and renewable sources supported by communities, instead of from fossil fuels.
- **Supportive housing for vulnerable populations:** Ensure that small and rural communities receive adequate funding for long term housing projects for vulnerable populations.

I encourage you to support the funding priorities outlined above in this year's Provincial budget to invest in building the foundations of equitable, healthy, and livable communities for all British Columbians.

Sincerely,