



Resource Municipalities
COALITION

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Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance

PO Box 9048, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

September 28, 2021

RE: Improved Competitiveness for Local Businesses

Minister Robinson,

The Resource Municipalities Coalition (RMC) advocates for responsible resource development as we believe responsible resource development sustains communities by addressing impacts on ecosystems as well as cumulative impacts to a healthy natural environment and to citizens by ensuring the provision of effective social services that improve quality of life while building a sustainable future.

It is based on this principle that we reach out to you to present an opportunity to improve competitiveness within our local economies by addressing the gaps within the provincial PST Legislation that enable out of province companies to not comply with BC tax laws for the payment of the BC Provincial Sales Tax (PST).

The RMC believes that these amendments would reduce non-compliance and improve BC business's ability to compete fairly with out of province businesses.

- Increase the level of monitoring and enforcement of BC tax laws,
- Implement a public awareness program,
- Establish a process to enable the public to access non-confidential information, and
- Review and amend existing legislation and regulations to enhance the ability of the Ministry of Finance to monitor and enforce the payment of PST by non-resident companies.

As the province looks to improve our economic outlook post pandemic, we believe these changes will improve investment, improve local employment opportunities, and stabilize the local business climate as we look to an economy that works for everyone.

Likewise, the direct government revenue generation of increased PST payments from out of province businesses will improve the local and provincial employment by removing the competitive advantage of out of

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province businesses and reduce the incentive for businesses to relocate out of province to address their disadvantage.

The Resource Municipalities Coalition encourages government to review work completed (attached) regarding amendments to the Act and referencing the Saskatchewan model as an opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of amending the current Act that improves the competitiveness for local businesses.

Sincerely,



Mayor Lori Ackerman
City of Fort St John



Mayor Rob Fraser
District of Taylor



Mayor Keith Bertrand
District of Tumbler Ridge



Mayor Joan Atkinson
District of Mackenzie



Mayor Gary Foster
Northern Rockies Regional Municipality



Executive Director Mike Whalley
Resource Municipalities Coalition

CC: Premier John Horgan

Minister Ravi Kahlon

Minister Josie Osborne

Attachment: Improved Competitiveness for British Columbians