



VIA EMAIL
May 19, 2026

The Honourable David Eby, Premier
The Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Energy and Climate
The Honourable Kelly Greene, Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
The Honourable Christine Boyle, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs
The Honourable Brenda Bailey, Minister of Finance

Email: Premier@gov.bc.ca, ECS.Minister@gov.bc.ca, EMCR.Minister@gov.bc.ca,
HMA.Minister@gov.bc.ca, FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier Eby, Minister Dix, Minister Greene, Minister Boyle, and Minister Bailey:

RE: BC Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) – Funding Continuation

On May 11, 2026, Saanich Council passed the following motion:

That Council direct the Mayor to send a letter to the Province and Local MLA's, as per the draft provided, outlining the need for continued Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) funding and share this letter with the Capital Regional District Board of Directors, other BC municipal elected officials and Chief Administrative Officers.

On behalf of Saanich Council, I'm respectfully requesting your consideration for the need for the Province to continue to fund the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP). In February 2026, the Provincial Government released the 2026/27–2028/29 Service Plan for the Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions. The plan does not appear to include funding for the renewal of the LGCAP. As long-standing local government partners of the Province, we are concerned that the implications of allowing this funding to lapse may not be fully understood.

For more than 15 years, the Province has provided consistent annual climate action funding to local governments, recognizing our essential role in meeting provincial greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets and climate adaptation goals. LGCAP and its predecessor, the Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (CARIP), have provided a critical and reliable source of dedicated funding that enables municipalities to resource staff capacity, support community climate initiatives, deliver key GHG reduction and adaptation programs, and leverage other utility funding and provincial and federal grants. Many of these initiatives directly support the goals of the CleanBC Roadmap and the Climate Preparedness & Adaptation Strategy.

This funding arrangement and the projects and programs enabled have led to a nearly 50% reduction in Saanich's corporate GHG emissions and a nearly 20% reduction in Saanich's community-wide GHG emissions from our 2007 baseline. We have realized significant transportation mode shifts, from 17% of trips taken by transit and active transportation in 2011, to 26% today; we have seen over 2,300 Saanich households replace their fossil fuel heating systems with heat pumps to deliver efficient heating and protective cooling; we have completed

comprehensive climate risk assessments of Saanich infrastructure to ensure we are planning and investing effectively for the climate changes ahead. Provincial investments in local government action have been working, but there is more to do. Local government partners have valuable insights that should inform the next iteration of this successful program.

Municipal budgets are under significant pressure to fund core services and respond to the increasingly costly impacts of accelerating climate changes, including devastating floods, wildfires, and extreme heat. Removing dedicated Provincial climate action funding will create a shortfall that cannot be replaced without significant impacts to local taxpayers. While we appreciate the various climate-related grants currently available through the Province, these programs are competitive, time-limited, and often difficult to access due to requirements for matching funds and the staff capacity needed to prepare and manage applications and implement projects. They have also been reduced in recent years. LGCAP has been the stable foundation that allows local governments to pursue these opportunities. Without it, many municipalities will be unable to apply for competitive grants or deliver community-focused climate programming that supports provincial objectives.

Over the last three years Saanich received approximately \$1.1 million from LGCAP, which staff successfully leveraged to secure approximately **\$1.0 million in additional external grant funding** (this excludes other major grants for capital projects such as corporate building retrofits and EV charging infrastructure which are in the \$multiple millions). This has contributed to a wide range of climate programs and projects that benefit Saanich residents and community including:

- Corporate and Community Climate Risk Assessments
- Community emissions inventories
- Strata Energy Advisor Program
- Top-up incentives for EV Ready Plans and retrofits in MURBs
- Climate Plan Update
- Fleet E Bike Program
- Tillicum Green Infrastructure Project
- Energy & Carbon Emissions reporting
- Gorge Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy
- One Planet Saanich
- School climate education programs
- Rental Apartment Retrofit Accelerator
- Zero Waste initiatives
- Oil removal policy review

Local governments are on the front lines of planning for and responding to climate impacts and have direct or indirect influence over more than half of B.C.'s GHG emissions. The Province cannot meet its CleanBC targets, achieve its climate adaptation goals and protect BC residents from the increasing impacts of climate change without strong, resourced municipal partners.

LGCAP funding is essential to ensuring that local governments can continue to deliver climate action and prepare for climate impacts at the scale required.

Despite our long-standing partnership, local governments, including Saanich, were not consulted on the decision to cease funding for LGCAP. To staff's knowledge, no local government was engaged prior to the release of the Service Plan. While several months of LGCAP funding remains from the pre-payment for the 2026/27 year, many climate actions are multi-year projects, most external grants take months or years to determine, and many local governments fund staff using LGCAP, so work is already underway to prepare for the 2027-28 year and beyond based upon continued LGCAP funding. Certainty related to consistent, continuous funding is paramount.

As we collectively work to build a stronger, more sustainable Province, Council requests that the Province confirm their commitment to consistent, continuous LGCAP funding and we look forward to further collaboration on climate action and preparedness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dean Murdock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dean Murdock
Mayor

cc:

Hon. Nina Krieger, MLA Victoria Swan Lake <Nina.Krieger.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Hon. Diana Gibson, MLA Oak Bay Gordon Head <Diana.Gibson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Hon. Lana Popham, MLA Saanich South <Lana.Popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
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All BC Municipalities