



**URBAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE – PACIFIC REGION**

#1100 – 1050 West Pender Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6E 3S7 Canada  
T. 604.669.9585 F. 604.689.8691

March 24, 2020

Dear Premier Horgan,

As the organization representing homebuilders, landlords and commercial developers in British Columbia, our members urgently need your help. If we do not see relief from the tax burden being imposed upon them during this unprecedented crisis, their priority will be paying employees' salaries and mortgages and to forgo tax payments, which will have a significant impact on the economy and governments of all levels.

As fellow British Columbians, I know that you and I share a collective goal to see our colleagues, families, and friends come through this unprecedented crisis safe and healthy. The COVID-19 pandemic is wreaking havoc on our daily lives, people's livelihoods, and our economy. Not to mention the tragedy being felt by British Columbia families who have lost loved ones to this virus.

Yesterday's announcement of a 50% tax reduction for Class 4, 5, and 6 properties is not nearly enough to mitigate the full impact of this evolving crisis, In just the last **24 hours**, our members have received calls from thousands of tenants who have said they will NOT be paying their rent. These companies include big box retailers, major fast food chains, international and local companies.

We fully expect 75-80% of commercial tenants will not be paying their rent.

What you may not realize is that many of our members are not only Class 4, 5, 6 operators, but they also own Class 1 residential and operate as landlords. Without relief on Class 1, if tenants and renters are able to defer rent payments, our members will have no cash flow, they will not be able to service debt and will not be able to keep people employed. As builders, our members own significant amount of residential land. As such, they are facing enormous property tax bills which includes the Additional School Tax, the Speculation and Vacancy tax and Empty Homes Tax.

Your statement "*No one will be evicted due to COVID 19*" although well intentioned, has exasperated the situation. Our industry is responsible for 250,000 jobs and is a heavily leveraged sector that will need relief if we are going to continue to support the economic recovery of British Columbia; something we are all committed to doing.

Now more than ever, there needs to be a holistic approach to tax changes, abatements and deferrals. Only easing the burden on tenants, renters and employees and not employers and landowners will undoubtedly crash the entire economy. I implore you work with us to

significantly reduce the financial burden for *everyone*, support our employees and enable us to keep the economy going. This is a critical issue for me - I am available this evening at your convenience to discuss.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne McMullin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anne McMullin  
President & CEO  
C. 778-938-0408