



The Corporation of the District of Saanich | Mayor's Office

770 Vernon Avenue Victoria BC V8X 2W7 | T 250-475-5510 | F 250-475-5440 | www.saanich.ca

Sent via email: premier@gov.bc.ca

February 5, 2021

The Honourable John Horgan, M.L.A.
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Horgan,

Re: Disability Assistance

On February 1, 2021 Saanich Council considered a Report to Council and resolved as follows:

“That Council direct the Mayor to write on behalf of Council to the Provincial Minister of Finance; the Premier; the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction; the MLA for Saanich South; the MLA for Victoria-Swan Lake; and, the MLA for Oak Bay Gordon Head, asking for the government to reinstate the \$300 monthly top-up for people receiving disability assistance at least until the COVID-19 pandemic is over and then permanently raise the rates of income assistance and disability assistance to a livable rate.”

Please consider this request to reinstate the \$300 monthly disability assistance top-up. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have only exacerbated the pre-existing social and economic issues to those already in need.

A copy of the report and excerpt from the meeting minutes are attached for information.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Haynes'.

Fred Haynes
Mayor
Enclosures

cc: Saanich Council
The Honourable Nicholas Simons, Minister of Social Development & Poverty Reduction
The Honourable Selina Robinson, Minister of Finance
The Honourable Lana Popham, MLA, Saanich South
The Honourable Rob Fleming, MLA Victoria-Swan Lake
The Honourable Murray Rankin, Q.C., MLA Oak Bay-Gordon Head

Rachel Mattiuz

From: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX <Premier@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 2:35 PM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Subject: (External Email) Automatic reply: 05.02.2021-Ltr to Premier Horgan - Reinstating the Disability Assistance Top Up

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Hello,

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Due to the volume of incoming messages, this is an automated response to let you know that your email has been received and will be reviewed at the earliest opportunity.

If your inquiry more appropriately falls within the mandate of a Ministry or other area of government, staff will refer your email for review and consideration.

For information on the BC Recovery Benefit and BC's Restart Plan, please refer to the information below:

The BC Recovery Benefit is a one-time, tax-free payment of up to \$1,000 for eligible families and single parents, and up to \$500 for eligible individuals. Online applications will open on December 18, 2020. For more information, please visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/economic-recovery/recovery-benefit>

BC's Restart Plan lays out a series of steps that we will take together to protect people and ensure that our province can come back from COVID-19 stronger than before. For further information, please visit: <https://www.gov.bc.ca/restartbc>

If you are writing about COVID-19, please refer to the information below:

If you or a family member believes they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, please complete the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool: <https://covid19.thrive.health/>. If the tool advises you are demonstrating relevant symptoms, please call 8-1-1 to speak with a healthcare professional.

For the answers to common questions about COVID-19, please visit:
<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>
<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>

To learn more about federal government programs and information, please click here:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

John Horgan
Premier

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Minister, SDPR SDPR:EX <SDPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 2:46 PM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Subject: (External Email) Thank you for writing

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Thank you for taking the time to write our office. This is an automated response to let you know that your email has been received.

We appreciate hearing feedback and suggestions from British Columbians about the supports and services offered by our Ministry. As we are sure you can appreciate, due to the high volume of correspondence, it is not always possible to respond to every email; however, please be assured that we are listening and read every email.

If you are a provincial income or disability assistance recipient or applicant in need of ministry support, we encourage you to call the ministry's toll-free phone line at 1-866-866-0800, or contact the ministry online using the My Self Serve system at <https://www.myselfserve.gov.bc.ca/>.

If you require immediate assistance, please refer to the available contacts listed below:

- If there is a medical emergency, please dial 911 from any phone.
- If you are in emotional distress or require immediate mental health support, please call the Crisis Line, available 24/7, at 310-6789 or toll-free at 1-800-784-2433 to receive an immediate response.
- If you want front line government support dial Service BC at 1-800-663-7867 or BC 211 (dial 2-1-1).

Thank you again for taking the time to write. We appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Office of the Minister
Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Minister, FIN FIN:EX <FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 2:36 PM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Subject: (External Email) Thank you for your email

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Thank you for taking the time to write. Due to the volume of incoming messages, this is an automated response to let you know that my office has received your email.

For further information on the Ministry of Finance, we invite you to visit www.gov.bc.ca/fin, or for information regarding other government initiatives, please visit www.gov.bc.ca<<http://www.gov.bc.ca>>.

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Popham.MLA, Lana <Lana.Popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 2:35 PM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Subject: (External Email) Automatic reply: 05.02.2021-Ltr to Premier Horgan - Reinstating the Disability Assistance Top Up

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Thank you for your email. We appreciate you are taking the time to write to the office.

This automated response is to assure you that your message has been received by my office and will be reviewed as soon as possible. Due to the high volume of emails we will not be responding to emails we are cc'd on, or emails without a name and address.

Help us get back to you! Please be sure to include your home address or postal code if you are a resident of Saanich South.

Our office hours are Monday to Friday 9 am to 4 pm.

If you need assistance with Government agencies, please call 1 604 660 2421.

British Columbians can apply for the recovery benefit through one of the following:

- Online starting Dec 18th <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/economic-recovery/recovery-benefit>
- By phoning starting Dec 21st at 1-833-882-0020 toll-free, Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 5:00pm. Agents will be available to provide assistance in multiple languages.

If you are contacting this office about an Agriculture or Fisheries issue please send to the Ministry's office at:

AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

For up-to-date information about COVID-19, resources and best practices can be found on the BC Centre for Disease Control website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>

For more information on B.C.'s response to COVID-19, please visit the following website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>

The latest news from the B.C. government can be found on the news website at <https://news.gov.bc.ca/>

Thank you again for your email.

Kindest Regards from the Office of,

Lana Popham

Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia for Saanich South: She/Her/Hers/Elle

250-479-4154 | #260 4243 Glanford Ave Victoria, BC, V8Z 4B9 | <http://saanichsouth.ca/> | Instagram <<https://www.instagram.com/lanapopham/>> | Facebook <<https://www.facebook.com/LanaPophamSaanichSouth>>

Rachel Mattiuz

From: Rankin.MLA, Murray <Murray.Rankin.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 4:26 PM
To: Rachel Mattiuz
Subject: (External Email) RE: 05.02.2021-Ltr to Oak Bay-Gordon Head MLA, Honourable Murray Rankin, Q.C. - Reinstating the Disability Assistance Top Up

This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.

Hi Rachel,

Received, and will pass this on to MLA Rankin, thank you!

Best wishes,
Astra

Astra Lund-Phillips She/Her
Constituency Assistant to the Honourable Murray Rankin, Q.C.
MLA for Oak Bay-Gordon Head
P: 250-472-8528 | E: Murray.Rankin.MLA@leg.bc.ca
219 – 3930 Shelbourne St. Victoria, BC V8P 5P6
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

The Oak Bay-Gordon Head Constituency Office recognizes that we operate on the territory of the Lekwungen people, now known as the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The above message contains confidential information intended for a specified individual and purpose. The information is private and protected by law. Any copying or disclosure of this transmission by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and delete this message and any attachments from your system. Thank you.

From: Rachel Mattiuz <Rachel.Mattiuz@saanich.ca>
Sent: February 5, 2021 2:40 PM
To: Rankin.MLA, Murray <Murray.Rankin.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Cc: Mayor <Mayor@saanich.ca>
Subject: 05.02.2021-Ltr to Oak Bay-Gordon Head MLA, Honourable Murray Rankin, Q.C. - Reinstating the Disability Assistance Top Up

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached to this email correspondence from Mayor Haynes on behalf of Saanich Council regarding a resolution passed at the February 1, 2021 Council meeting requesting the government to reinstate the monthly top-up for those receiving disability assistance.

Kindly confirm receipt of this email.

Thank you,

Rachel Mattiuz
Administrative Assistant to the Mayor
Administration Department