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7140 MILLER ROAD, RICHMOND, BC V7B 1L4

TO: MAYOR & EACH  
COUNCILLOR  
FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

*PC: Cathy Carlisle  
for information*

PHOTOCOPIED

FEB 20 2007

*[Signature]*  
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1067-01

February 5, 2007

The Honourable Raymond Chan, MP  
4940 No 3 Road, Unit 308  
Richmond, British Columbia  
V6X 3A5

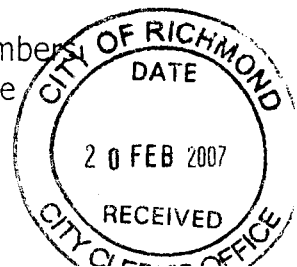
Dear Mr. Chan,

Re: **HRDC Summer Career Placement Grant**

It has come to our attention that the HRDC Summer Career Placement Grant may be in jeopardy this year. As you may know, the Grant funds the wages of young adults who lead and assist in the summer programs for children provided by Richmond community associations. In 2006, the Grant was \$113,607 for all of Richmond and was internally allocated between 14 agencies including eight community associations, two arts agencies, two heritage agencies, the Nature Park Society and the Arenas Community Association. It 'topped up' wages and 'filled in' gaps that our non-profit associations and societies would not otherwise be able to look after.

These funds are critical to Richmond because they:

- allow us to pay competitive wages to our young adult program leaders, almost all of whom are post-secondary students. College and university are expensive and, unfortunately, students often have to choose the better paycheque over the superior job experience. The Grant has facilitated the education of many past Richmond summer staff who are now teachers or working in other child-centered fields
- encourage our summer staff to return each year until their post-secondary educations are complete, ensuring a continuous cycle of excellent staff members through mentorship of each new year's staff by those returning from previous years
- enable us to run programs that cannot break even – serving families in our smaller communities, those who are financially challenged and those who seek specialty programs
- create opportunities for free park programs that everyone can attend
- facilitate excellence in our programs, giving our younger community members safe, healthy and challenging alternatives for summer fun. In our diverse



**SEA·ISLAND**



**COMMUNITY·ASSOCIATION**

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community, HRDC Grant-funded programs provide excellent opportunities for ESL students to practice speaking English throughout the summer, children with disabilities to be included and everyone to learn more about arts, cultural and heritage.

Last year, Sea Island's portion of the Grant enabled us to fund one senior leader and two assistant leaders. The programs they led ranged from arts to out trips to sport camps. Our organization would not have been able to provide these programs to area children without the help of the Grant.

Questions to our contacts at HRDC have yielded more questions than answers and so we ask if you can work on our behalf to ensure this critical funding source is maintained for 2007 and beyond. Our community's children depend upon it – both the younger ones who participate in the programs and the older ones who work at them.

Sincerely

Terri Martin  
President, Sea Island Community Association

Cc: MP John Cummins, Delta – Richmond East  
Minister of Labour Jean-Pierre Blackburn  
Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty  
Secretary of State for Sport Helena Guergis  
MLA Olga Ilich – Richmond Centre  
Mayor Brodie and Richmond City Council  
Councillor Harold Steves, Sea Island Council liaison