



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

JUL 13 2021  
RECEIVED

July 8, 2021

Ref. 620335

His Worship Ward Stamer  
Mayor of the District of Barriere  
Box 219, 4936 Barriere Town Road  
Barriere BC V0E 1E0

Dear Mayor Stamer:

Thank you for your letter dated May 31, 2021, in which you write on behalf of the District of Barriere Council and its residents to support the advocacy of anti-human trafficking educator Cathy Peters.

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General is taking action to combat human trafficking, including supporting the availability of training and education, fostering community-led responses, promoting knowledge exchanges and collaboration at the local and national level, supporting the availability of support services to trafficked persons across the province, and enhancing investigative capacity across the province.

In addition to providing over \$42M in annual funding to support over 400 victim service and violence against women programs across the province, all of which support trafficked persons, we provide grants to community-based organizations for trafficking-related projects through the Civil Forfeiture Crime Prevention and Remediation Grant Program. In March 2021, approximately \$637,000 was provided to support projects addressing Human Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation, and Vulnerable People in the Sex Trade. Recent projects supported through this grant program include:

- Three-year funding (beginning 2019/20) to Family Services of Greater Vancouver for a victim service worker in the Vancouver Police Department's Counter Exploitation Unit to support trafficking victims navigating the criminal justice system by providing emotional and practical support.
- One-year funding (beginning 2020/21) to VIDEA, a BC-based international development agency, to support its "Raised Voices" project, which raises awareness and promotes education about human trafficking amongst Indigenous youth of all genders through a province-wide Indigenous youth-led, culturally effective social media campaign and youth outreach strategy.

.../2

His Worship Ward Stamer  
Page 2

Additionally, the Province is directing \$799,200 received from Public Safety Canada towards the project "Building local internet child exploitation unit capacity in BC to combat child sexual exploitation online". This project will provide additional support to 11 independent municipal police departments – in the areas of staffing, training, and equipment – to enhance their capacity to investigate cases of child sexual exploitation online.

Thank you for your commitment to this very important issue and for supporting the valuable work undertaken by Cathy Peters. I have also met with her recently, and we are aware of her efforts to raise awareness about human trafficking and appreciate the updates she has shared with us about her work in this area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Farnworth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Mike Farnworth  
Minister of Public Safety  
and Solicitor General