

SELINA ROBINSON, MLA, COQUITLAM-MAILLARDVILLE

BI-ANNUAL REPORT 2015



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I can't believe that it is already the end of June and time for the next edition of my semi-annual Constituency Report. The past five months have been a busy time to say the least. Since my report in January we have made it through another session in the Legislature, and it has been an intense few months of holding this government accountable and representing the constituents of Coquitlam-Maillardville. Here's what I have been doing in the Legislature and in the community on your behalf:

- I presented a Private Member's Statement on Riverview – I spoke of our community's commitment to ensure that the Riverview Lands continue to be a place of mental health and wellness, not a place for market housing. You can read more about what I said inside my report.
- This spring session in the Legislature I also presented a Private Member's Bill - the *Distressed Animal Act*. This piece of legislation would permit local governments to grant authority to by-law officers to apprehend animals in overheated vehicles, and would amend the *Motor Vehicle Act* making it an offense to leave an animal in a vehicle without adequate ventilation. Unfortunately the bill was not debated this session, however I am committed to bring it forward again at the next session.
- As a Member of the Opposition I had the opportunity to ask the Liberal government several significant questions about the choices they were making on behalf of British Columbians. In particular I had a lot to say about this government's waste of taxpayer money being spent on the Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG). The office of the AGLG whose initial goal was to produce 18 reports each year produced only one report in two years at a staggering cost of \$5.2 million. I asked many questions of the Minister responsible for this file who from the outset said that all was well within the office. After weeks of questioning the Minister about the lack of return on investment

as well as the internal HR issues within the AGLG, the Minister fired the Auditor General for Local Government and an interim AGLG was appointed. A review was subsequently conducted and we have recently learned that the government, after three years and \$7.8 million dollars is now realizing that the AGLG legislation needs to be amended.

- I had the opportunity to ask questions about the sale of lands owned by the provincial government on Burke Mountain. I learned that these lands which were appraised at \$128 million were sold for just \$85 million. In fact, one parcel, appraised at \$5.6 million was sold for a mere \$100,000.
- I had the chance to ask the government questions about mental health services in our community, cuts to education, ambulance service reductions and missing emails after a request from Freedom of Information came back with no records.
- Even though it was a busy four months in the Legislature, I managed to spend some time in the community as well. In April I hosted our second annual Community Easter Egg Hunt at Blue Mountain Park. We had over 300 people join the Easter Bunny and myself as we searched for eggs that the Easter Bunny left throughout the park. I also hosted a Doggie Day at Mundy Park collecting signatures for a petition asking the government to make the changes noted in my Private Member's Bill to address animals in distress in overheated vehicles. Local businesses provided 'doggie' services like treats, 'pawdicures' and agility training. It was a great morning for both our two and four legged friends.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a lovely summer of memories. I invite you to stay connected by signing up for my monthly electronic newsletter selina.robinson.mla@leg.bc.ca. Our office is open Monday to Friday, so feel free to drop by #102-1108 Austin Ave (parking behind building enter off Marmont) or give us a call at 604.933.2001.

All the best,
Selina

OUR SECOND ANNUAL EASTER EGG
HUNT AT BLUE MOUNTAIN PARK -



SELINA ROBINSON IN THE LEGISLATURE

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

1st Canada Day at Coquitlam Town Centre

AUGUST

8th Korean Heritage Festival, Swanguard Stadium

SEPTEMBER

Community BBQ at Blue Mountain Park

OCTOBER

Jane's Walk in Maillardville

DECEMBER

Holiday Open House



ASKING QUESTIONS IN THE LEGISLATURE



WITH SPCA VOLUNTEERS AND MLAs AFTER INTRODUCING THE ANIMALS IN DISTRESS PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL

We will be going out to taxpayers and asking what they think about this government's waste of \$5.2 million on the Auditor General for Local Government. They'll certainly be telling us that they're not impressed with the decisions of this government.

Question Period, March 24, 2015

Just this morning I read in our local paper, the Tri-City News, an article about how this government's policy to start charging for high school upgrades is impacting young people in my community. I quote from the article: "Tri-City college- and university-bound students who have already graduated but still need to upgrade English 12 and Biology 12 or other high school credit courses are signing up in droves to take advantage of free tuition before provincial funding runs out May 1." The article goes on to note: "Among the hardest hit by the change in government policy may be young adults from 19 to 25 years of age who are still trying to get their careers established and who may require additional high school courses or need better marks to get into college or university. This group currently makes up about 30 percent, or 154 of the 473, of students who have so far enrolled for high school credit courses with continuing education this spring."

After May 1 the school district will have to charge students for upgrading courses directly. This was previously funded by the province, and the school board hasn't yet determined the cost for these courses but estimates that the charge after May 1 will be in the neighbourhood of \$500 or more per course. Even our children are getting hit with new fees so that life is harder for them under this Liberal government policy.

Throne speech debate, February 12, 2015

I live in a wonderful community of amazing people with roll-up-your-sleeves leadership. Within a day or two of that devastating fire my community pulled together and recognized that these people who were left homeless would need our help and donations of gently used clothing and household items, and financial contributions started pouring in. I'm so very proud of my community. Their generosity makes me proud. I'm so grateful to have witnessed the coming together of this caring community when people needed it most.

Member's Statement, March 9, 2015

We have amazing businesses in the Tri-Cities. Earlier this month the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce celebrated several businesses for their role in building a strong business presence and for their role in strengthening our community. The winners in each of the six categories have demonstrated success, innovation and passion in their respective fields.

The chamber recognized the accomplishments of these businesses and individuals at the annual Chamber Gala on January 31, hosted at the Hard Rock Casino Theatre. As one of the 300 attendees, I have to say it was a fine, fabulous evening of celebration, good food and great entertainment, emceed by CBC's own Fred Lee.

Member's Statement Feb. 18, 2015



SERVING IT UP AT THE SECOND ANNUAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT HOSTED BY THE CANADIAN KOREAN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

AND IN THE COMMUNITY

THE IMPORTANCE OF RIVERVIEW

For over a hundred years Riverview has served British Columbians living with mental illness. It has a history as a leading-edge and progressive mental health institution. Yes, it has a history of some pretty barbaric treatments that we now understand to be ineffective and even harmful. Psychiatric treatments have come a long way since the '50s and '60s.

We know that we as a province need a comprehensive mental health strategy and a centre of excellence for mental health care. The residents of Coquitlam-Maillardville will welcome the reinvigoration of Riverview as a centre for mental health and wellness. I know of no other community in this province that would open its arms to such a facility.

These 244 acres on the eastern edge of my constituency present the perfect place for a centre of mental health and wellness. I would encourage all members of this House to come out and take a look, to commit to preserving this site for health and wellness and to commit to developing a comprehensive mental health strategy, so that those who are most vulnerable in our community don't have to continue on this path to despair.

Excerpt from Private Member's Statement, April 20, 2015



HANDING OUT TREATS TO MY FOUR LEGGED FRIENDS ON DOGGIE DAY

So many of my children's friends are juggling a raft of retail and other low-wage jobs, running from the coffee shop where they work the morning shift to the daycare job where they work the afternoon shift to the restaurant where they work the evening shift. This is how our young people are finding their way in the world. This is how our young people are making ends meet. This is what awaits them after they finish post-secondary school.

Throne speech debate, February 12, 2015



SELINA AT TREE FEST WITH FORMER MLA, AND RIVERVIEW CHAMPION, DIANE THORNE.

DISTRESSED ANIMAL ACT

In 2013 the B.C. SPCA received 850 calls regarding animals left in hot cars, and in 2014 they received well over 1,000 calls. With only 26 special provincial constables working across the province, the B.C. SPCA liaises with RCMP and municipal bylaw officers to respond to these urgent calls.

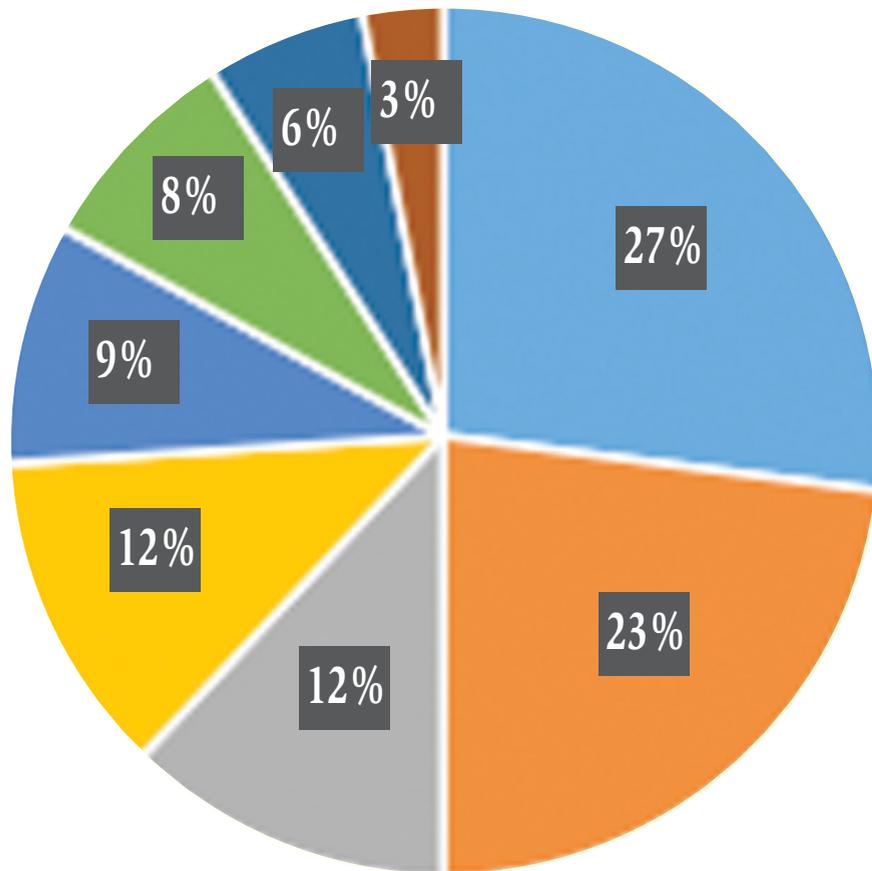
The Distressed Animal Act amends the Community Charter and Vancouver Charter, permitting bylaw enforcement to seize animals in distress where there is inadequate ventilation in a vehicle. It amends the Motor Vehicle Act, noting that a person commits an offence if they are transporting an animal without providing for adequate ventilation.

These proposed amendments would permit first responders to take immediate action and ensure more awareness and compliance so that animals need not die such a horrible death while the driver runs a few errands or only intends to leave the animal for a few minutes.

Introduction of Selina's ANIMALS IN DISTRESS Private Member's Bill- March 26

HOW OUR OFFICE HELPS IN THE COMMUNITY

TOP CONCERNS RAISED IN COQUITLAM-MAILLARDVILLE CONSTITUENCY OFFICE FROM JANUARY - JUNE 2015



- Social Assistance
- Education
- Transportation
- Health
- Environment
- Housing
- Ministry of Children & Families/Community Living BC
- Other

DROP BY OUR OFFICE

Your constituency office is here to serve you and the community and can assist you in a variety of ways. Some of the services we provide include:

- Provide assistance on a variety of issues including landlord, tenant and other housing issues, public safety, MSP etc.
- Assist in understanding government policies and services,
- Resolve issues you may have with provincial government agencies and assist in navigating through government bureaucracy,
- Attend community events,
- Offer congratulatory and greeting messages,
- Provide government documents, legislation, discussion papers and other web-based forms if you don't have Internet access.

Our doors are open Monday through Friday from 10am until 4:30pm so please drop by and speak with Laura or Sharron to determine how we can help.



AWARDING CITY OF KELOWNA 'BEST IN CLASS' FOR THEIR FLOAT ENTRY IN THE COQUITLAM GRANDE PARADE.

web: www.selinarobinson.ca

Twitter: @selinarobinson

facebook: www.facebook.com/selina.d.robinson.7

Youtube: coquitlam maillardville