

-----Original Message-----

From: Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX
[mailto:Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: September 14, 2006 4:11 PM
To: whunter@eshippers.com
Cc: Prentice.J@parl.gc.ca; Jarvis, Dan.MLA LASS:EX; Sultan.MLA, Ralph LASS:EX; Whittred, Katherine LASS:EX
Subject: 149485 Billboards along the Trans-Canada Highway

Dear Wayne Hunter:

Re: Billboards along the Trans-Canada Highway

Thank you for your e-mail of August 21, 2006, and attachment outlining your concerns about the installation of electronic billboards along some sections of the Trans Canada Highway in the Lower Mainland.

Safety is my ministry's top priority and I commend you for your interest in public safety. However, matters related to the installation of billboards on reserve lands do not fall under the jurisdiction of my ministry. Although these billboards are proposed for provincial corridors, this is a federal issue, involving federal lands. As such, I was pleased to see that your letter was sent to the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, as well as two federal members of Parliament.

The Squamish Indian Band's proposal to lease portions of reserve land along the Trans Canada Highway for commercial use is currently under review by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. This review is being conducted on behalf of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and is not an initiative of my ministry. You can follow the progress of this review on the agency's web site at http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/Viewer_e.cfm?SrchPg=1&CEAR_ID=21640&ForceNOC=Y.

In order to strengthen the quality and credibility of their work, the Environmental Assessment Agency encourages public participation, particularly from area residents with invaluable historical and traditional knowledge of a proposed project site. To find out more about how you can participate, please check out the agency's web site at http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/011/index_e.htm.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and for copying me on your very informative and interesting letter to Minister Prentice.

Best regards,

Kevin Falcon
Minister

Copy to: Daniel Jarvis
MLA, North Vancouver-Seymour

Ralph Sultan
MLA, West Vancouver-Capilano

Katherine Whittred
MLA, North Vancouver-Lonsdale

Honourable Jim Prentice
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development