



Mayor's Office, City of Penticton

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June 29, 2023

Premier David Eby
c/o premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier Eby

I am writing to you today with regard to the government's decision to protect people during extreme heat emergencies by providing BC Hydro with \$10 million to fund portable air conditioners to allow those who are most vulnerable during a heat emergency to have cooling options.

The June 27, 2023 announcement notes that many people in British Columbia struggle with extreme heat and often have limited options available when it comes to cooling. This is particularly relevant for Penticton, with an above average senior's population and geographical location in the southern interior. The announcement of 8,000 units to be installed for those with low incomes and are medically vulnerable to heat is a welcome announcement.

We wish to identify for the Province that issuing this opportunity via BC Hydro, will exclude residents of 5 municipalities, being the City of Penticton, District of Summerland, City of Nelson, City of Grand Forks and the City of New Westminster who all own and operate their own electrical distribution utility in the Province of British Columbia.

Municipal utilities do not have the financial resources to match BC Hydro's program but the residents we serve deserve the same access to this program.

In one of your first actions as premier, you provided a \$100 hydro rebate to British Columbians and extended the program to ensure that residents – including those who are serviced by utilities other than BC Hydro – received the credit. By following this same principal of consistency with respect to the access to portable air conditioners, the Province will ensure consistency of support across British Columbia.

We look forward to hearing back from you and can be reached via our City Manager, Donny van Dyk at (250) 490-2407.

Sincerely,

Mayor Julius Bloomfield

cc. Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health
Roger Dall'Antonia, President and CEO, Fortis BC
Chris O'Riley, President and CEO, BC Hydro
Donny van Dyk, City Manager, Penticton

Mayor and Council, City of New Westminster
Mayor and Council, District of Summerland
Mayor and Council, City of Nelson
Mayor and Council, City of Grand Forks