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April 2, 2008

Mr. Mark Laroche

President and CEO
Canada Lands Company
1 University Avenue, Suite 1200
Toronto, Ontario M5J 2P1

Dear Mr. Laroche:

I am in receipt of your letter of March 20, 2008 with regard to the ownership of the Garden City Lands in Richmond.

There seems to be some confusion as to what the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed on March 18, 2005 actually states with regard to ownership.

I note that the *Richmond Review* of March 12th quotes Canada Lands Company (CLC) at the Richmond hearings as claiming that 50 percent of the "entire" property is being held for the Musqueam Indian Band:

"Lawyers revealed the Canada Lands Company, an arm's length federal Crown Corporation, owns the entire parcel only on paper. It's holding half the lands in trust for the Musqueam because in B.C., Indian bands can't legally be registered on title.

"Canada Lands Company vice president Gordon McIvor agreed: 'We hold 50 per cent in trust for the Musqueam First Nation.'"

This CLC statement to the hearings in Richmond is in direct conflict with the government's announcement of the signing of the MOU where the government indicated that 50 % of the property goes to Richmond and the remaining 50 % to CLC for a joint venture development with the Musqueam Indian Band:

"The MOU provides that the property will be transferred to the CLC ... and will be divided 50 percent to Richmond and 50 percent to a joint venture project involving the Musqueam Indian Band and the CLC as equal partners."

It is also in conflict with the government's backgrounder on the MOU:

"The MOU provides that after subdivision, the property will be divided with 50 percent transferred to the City The MOU provides that the remaining 50 percent will be transferred to the CLC and the Musqueam Indian Band for a joint development venture, with the economic benefits being equally shared."

In summary the federal government has publicly stated that 50 % of the Garden City Lands go to the City of Richmond as public lands with the remaining 50 % as development lands to be held jointly by CLC and the Musqueam with the economic benefits of the development being shared jointly.

This is contrary to the statements in the *Richmond Review* attributed to the CLC at the public hearings on the removal of the Garden City Lands from the Agricultural Land Reserve where CLC testified that 50 % of the "entire" property was held in trust for the Musqueam: CLC Vice President is quoted as stating: "We hold 50 per cent in trust for the Musqueam First Nation."

- **How do you explain the conflict between the CLC testimony at the hearings in Richmond and the public statement of the federal government?**

I need not remind you that as a Crown corporation ultimately owned by the people of Canada the CLC must always act with great probity and in as transparent a manner as is possible.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Cummins', written over a light blue horizontal line.

John Cummins, M.P.
Delta-Richmond East