

October 14, 2021

Dear Ms. Cunning,

Thank you for your letter and for the opportunity to share my thoughts on this matter.

**1. Will you honour resolution 2015-12-08, which has not been rescinded, and provide a 100% exemption to MacBride?**

I believe this should be brought before the new Mayor and Council for reconsideration. This decision is controversial and could set a far-reaching precedent that should be considered fully. I would like to find a solution that is fair to MacBride Museum and to all NGOs that are doing vital work in our community. I think the city should do what it can to ensure that cultural institutions like the MacBride Museum are viable, while also ensuring parity among similar organizations.

**2. Will you commit to a review of the tax classes at the City with a view to creating a tax class for museums at a rate of zero that does not harm the operations of the organizations in the first year of your mandate?**

Yes, I will commit to a review of the tax classes. I would like this review to include research into what other municipalities are doing with NGOs and cultural institutions, like museums. I would also like to ensure that we engage NGOs and cultural organizations in a broad and in-depth way, so that we can hear from a broad range of stakeholders, including the MacBride Museum.

**3. We invite you to review the list of 23 charities/NGOS paying \$165K to the City in taxes in 2021. The City has been in a “surplus” position for many years yet taxes museums and service organizations in our community. Will you commit to an immediate review (year one) of Municipal Charges and Community Services Grant Policy and the City Grant-making Policy?**

Yes, I will commit to reviewing the policies that you have listed. Again, I would like to ensure that we have a high level of community and stakeholder engagement in those discussions and I know that we can count on you to participate.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts. I commend you and all the staff and volunteers at the museum for your diligent work. Not only do you play a big role in preserving Whitehorse's heritage but you make a significant contribution to our tourism industry. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Laura Cabott