

Date: _____

Ms. Linda Larson, M.L.A. for Boundary Similkameen
Member of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament Buildings, Victoria, British Columbia

Dear Ms. Larson

I am writing today as a member of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #192, Keremeos to respectfully request your support in lobbying the Attorney General to allow Legion branches in British Columbia to retain a larger portion of our Gaming Funds.

Our British Columbia Legion branches and Ladies Auxiliaries are an integral part of the social fabric that supports our communities by providing assistance to Veterans, allowing local groups with free use of our facilities, and providing over \$3.8 million annually in funds donated for support, for veterans, seniors, community groups, youth, and hospitals. Our local Legion branch provides financial and in-kind support to many organizations and causes including support for youth groups, medical purchases and local community organizations. Without our Legion to support these causes, many community groups will be negatively affected.

Not only does the Legion contribute thousands of dollars into our communities each year we are also the keepers of Remembrance for those who served and sacrificed for our country. Our branches plan and execute local Remembrance Day ceremonies as well as run our annual Poppy Campaigns. Each year BC citizens show their generosity by contributing loonies, toonies and more into Poppy trays all over the Province. These donations fund important programs such as housing for homeless veterans, therapy for those suffering from PTSD, and reeducation for those transitioning back into society. All Poppy funds collected are restricted public trust funds that cannot be used to support Branch operations, maintain our buildings or be used to pay municipal taxes.

We incur significant expenses to operate our not-for-profit, volunteer organization. Currently, our largest source of revenue to operate our facilities comes from the licensed premises. Legions do not benefit from the high volume foot traffic a traditional bar or pub does, and profit margins on liquor sales are small at best. This makes it very difficult for us to pay our bills and keep our doors open. We need your help to continue to provide the sense of community and support that so many have come to rely on.

Under the current Gaming Industry Guidelines, Legions are allowed to keep up to 15% of the funds raised from licensed gaming activities to cover administration costs. We are asking to keep up to 40% of the money raised to help offset operating costs. This would ensure the health and well-being of our branches therefore allowing us to continue to serve our Veterans and seniors, and the broader community. Sustainable branches will provide more opportunities to host further gaming events and increase the number of donations going back into the community.

Please help us continue to provide support and donations which are vital to all our communities in British Columbia. You can honour Canada's Veterans simply by voicing your support.

Yours Sincerely,

Member, Branch #192