

# SELINA ROBINSON, MLA, COQUITLAM-MAILLARDVILLE

## BI-ANNUAL REPORT 2016



### IN THIS ISSUE

- AUDITOR GENERAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
- EDUCATION
- SENIORS
- RIVERVIEW
- COMMUNITY EVENTS

Happy New Year! It's always exciting to turn to a fresh calendar, roll up my sleeves and get back to work on behalf of the residents of Coquitlam-Maillardville after the holiday season.

It's been a busy time since my last bi-annual report in June 2015. Here's a summary of what I have been doing on your behalf in the Legislature and in the community:

We have had two sessions in Victoria since my last report. The government called a quick two week session in July to address legislation related to LNG. More specifically, it was to develop a tax regime for the LNG industry, an industry that has yet to materialize. It was the only legislation we addressed in those two weeks.

There was also a fall session and amongst the issues we debated during this six week session were the significant problems with the wasteful Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG) legislation. Remember, this was the office that was supposed to save taxpayer money but ended up costing \$5.2 million over two years while producing just two reports. The most surprising piece about this reworked legislation is that the AGLG is no longer required to be an auditor! The remainder of the legislation introduced for debate this fall was pretty minor including a debate on having a special legislated day dedicated to the reduction of red tape – BC now has a Red Tape Reduction Day.

Given that the legislative agenda last fall was pretty thin, I focused my attention on asking significant and meaningful questions during Question Period. I asked the Minister of Education several questions about the new \$100 million MyEdBC computer system that wasn't

functioning properly through much of the fall and its impact on students, teachers and parents. I also asked about funding for school facilities that left teachers resorting to cutting out cardboard to cover the windows in their classrooms.

This fall I was given added responsibilities by the Leader of the Opposition, John Horgan. I have been the Opposition spokesperson for local government and sport since I was elected in 2013 and I was asked if I would include the seniors' portfolio in my spokesperson files. I am pleased to have this file and spent much of the fall reading reports, meeting with seniors' groups and seniors' service providers all over the province.

Given this new portfolio, I had a chance to speak in the Legislature about the importance of supporting family members who are caring for an aging senior. The province's Seniors Advocate reported that a substantial number of unpaid caregivers are experiencing significant distress caring for their loved one and that more support is needed to help these caregivers who provided about \$4.1 billion of unpaid care here in British Columbia last year. A small investment in these caregivers would not only make a significant difference to our seniors, but it's a good economic investment. Without these caregivers, taxpayers will have increased health care and seniors care costs. I am working to ensure our government invests our taxpayer dollars wisely.

Through my community office we have also engaged in a number of outreach activities aimed at strengthening our community. Last fall I hosted an MLA Café at the Dogwood Pavilion where I heard from seniors in our community about the issues that matter most to them; issues like

housing affordability, access to health services and support for loved ones needing care. I also hosted a Community Refugee Resettlement Forum where the community came together to hear from resettlement professionals about the ways that we, as a community, can help refugees integrate into our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a healthy, happy and prosperous 2016.

I invite you to stay connected by signing up for my monthly electronic newsletter [Selina.robinson.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Selina.robinson.mla@leg.bc.ca). If you need assistance accessing any government services, please don't hesitate to contact my community office. My office is open Monday-Friday, 10 am – 4:30 pm, so feel free to drop in #102-1108 Austin Ave. (parking behind building accessed off Marmont), give me a call 604.933.2001 or drop me a line [Selina.robinson.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Selina.robinson.mla@leg.bc.ca).

All the best,  
Selina



NAOMI, ADEL AND SELINA AT OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

# SELINA ROBINSON IN THE LEGISLATURE

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

8<sup>th</sup> - Lunar New Year

### MARCH

4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> - Festival du Bois  
Easter Egg Hunt  
at Blue Mountain Park

### JUNE

Daisy Day  
12<sup>th</sup> - Teddy Bear  
Picnic & Parade

### JULY

1<sup>st</sup> - Canada Day  
Celebration



SELINA WITH KAY SWALWELL, FOUNDER OF NEW VIEW SOCIETY, AT A KAY'S FUND FUNDRAISER.



SPEAKERS, CAROL TODD & MISS TEEN COQUITLAM 2015, MELISSA DELMONICO, AT SELINA'S YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FORUM.

#### INVESTING IN OUR SENIORS

A 2009 economic study found that the national market value of unpaid caregiver care is \$25 billion to \$65 billion a year. It's reasonable to estimate that in British Columbia in 2015, unpaid care had a value of about \$4.1 billion. The seniors advocate identified over 30,000 seniors in B.C. who are able to live at home because of the support of an unpaid caregiver. I believe everyone in this House and all British Columbians agree that these unpaid caregivers are an incredibly valuable and — I would even argue — a critical component of our health care system. The report, however, notes that we need to do more for these unpaid caregivers. These people who provide care need to be supported themselves...

Private Members' Statement  
Monday, October 26, 2015

#### LIQUOR DISTRIBUTION BRANCH OVERPAYMENT OF COMMISSIONS TO COMMERCIAL WINERIES

Here we have a minister explain how she's protecting taxpayers by not collecting a \$5.3 million gift that she gave to the province's largest commercial wineries. It's rich, because it's the second time this minister has had to stand in this House and explain to taxpayers why more than \$5 million of their hard-earned money just goes up in smoke. After all, it was this minister who let the Auditor General for Local Government waste more than \$5 million on a pair of audits.

Question Period  
Thursday, November 5, 2015

#### FUNDING FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES

In fact, as part of keeping our children safe, it's protocol in the event of a lockdown to close blinds so that any potential intruder cannot see into the classroom. But at this Maple Ridge school, teachers were told that in the event of a lockdown, the teacher is supposed to quickly tack this cardboard up so that the intruder cannot see the students in the classroom.

My question is to the Minister of Education. Will he admit that his government's so-called administrative savings are affecting our kids' classrooms and stop underfunding our education system so that schools like these in Maple Ridge can have proper window coverings, like blinds, instead of cardboard?

Question Period  
Wednesday, October 28, 2015

#### RIDE TO CONQUER CANCER

What impressed me most about this epic ride was that 2,000 riders and 1,000 volunteers pulled together. Everyone recognized that riding in this windstorm was nothing compared to a cancer diagnosis. Spirits were not dampened or blown away. Riders and volunteers knew that what they were doing was making a difference for British Columbians.

Private Members' Statement  
Monday, September 28, 2015



# AND IN THE COMMUNITY

## RIVERVIEW UPDATE

Over the past two years, BC Housing has been consulting with the community about how to make best use of these lands given that our model for mental health care has changed from the institutionalized model used in the 40s and 50s. When BC Housing undertook this community exercise, they committed to a number of things: the cost of redevelopment needed to be generated by the site (i.e. repair of heritage buildings could mean the sale of some of the 244 acres for development), and the trees/green spaces would remain untouched by any new development.

There have been numerous open houses and online opportunities for the community to share their ideas, values and vision for the site over the past two years. Almost everyone who responded wants to see the continued use of these lands for mental health and wellness and they want to see the preservation of the existing trees and landscape.

Late in December 2015 the government made an announcement reported in the Vancouver Sun that Riverview was 'to rise again as a mental health hub'. I attended the announcement and here is an excerpt of what I had to say in my Letter to the Editor of the Vancouver Sun:

*Re: Riverview to rise again as mental health hub, Dec. 18*

*The headline last Friday regarding Riverview is not an accurate reflection of the announcement we heard on Thursday.*

*The B.C. Liberals announced they are moving 126 mental health beds, previously located in Burnaby, to the 244-acre Riverview site and they are adding only 17 new mental health beds to the mix. Two buildings does not a 'hub' make and the \$175- million plan does not involve revamping the site — it involves building two buildings on a few acres. We have no idea what will happen to the other 240 acres.*

We still don't know what the rest of the site will look like and in the Renewing Riverview document that was released in December 2015 ([www.renewingriverview.com](http://www.renewingriverview.com)), the commitment to protect the green space is substantially watered down and the proposal looks to have a village centre precinct, an economic development precinct and a mix of market housing.

I am concerned the voices of those who have been participating in this consultation will not be heard and the desires of the community to use these lands for mental health and wellness will not be realized. I will continue to monitor the outcome of these consultations and keep you posted on how the government makes decisions about these precious lands.



SELINA, MP, FIN DONNELLY AND TIMA KURDI WELCOMING THE KURDI FAMILY TO THEIR NEW HOME IN COQUITLAM.



FIROUZEH PEYVANDI (ISSBC), RYAN DREW (SUCCESS), SALEEM SPINDARI (MOAIC), MOHAMMED KHAN (ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF BC) AND STACY ASHTON (CVC) AT SELINA'S COMMUNITY REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT FORUM.

## STUDENTS ARE FROM B.C., MYEDUCATION IS 'FROM MARS'

NDP MLA Selina Robinson took a strip off the Liberal government last week over the shaky performance of its new student information system.

Like its forerunner, BCeSIS, the new system, MyEducation B.C., has been plagued by problems to start the school year.

Robinson said the director of K-to-12 education in Maple Ridge recently told trustees that the problem with MyEducation B.C. lies in lagging processing time. "He says: 'It's a very lethargic system.' He explained that it might take 15 minutes for an administrator to simply search for a student's file in the system — 15 minutes. It takes less time to communicate to Mars.' "

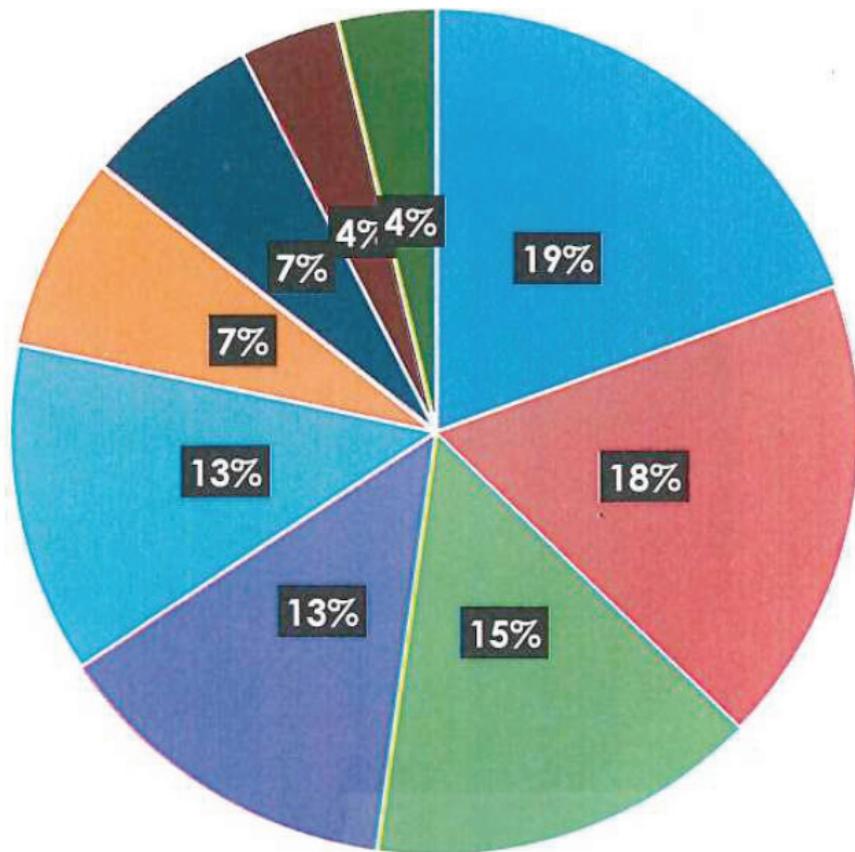
Education Minister Mike Bernier didn't have much of a comeback.

"Unlike the members opposite, who, for some reason, want to communicate with Mars, we like to communicate with the parents of British Columbia," he said, before completing ignoring Robinson's question and talking about education savings plans instead.

Les Leyne and Lindsay Kines  
Times Colonist/October 4, 2015

# HOW OUR OFFICE HELPS IN THE COMMUNITY

## TOP CONCERNS RAISED IN COQUITLAM-MAILLARDVILLE CONSTITUENCY OFFICE FROM JUNE 2015 TO DECEMBER 2015



- Health
- Social Assistance
- Housing
- Transportation/ICBC
- Ministry of Children & Families/Community Living BC
- Education
- BC Hydro
- Employment/Jobs
- Other

## DROP BY OUR OFFICE

Our constituency office is here to serve you and the community and can assist you in a variety of ways. Some of the services we provide include:

- Provide assistance on a variety of issues including landlord, tenant and other housing issues, public safety, MSP etc.
- Assist in understanding government policies and services,
- Resolve issues you may have with provincial government agencies and assist in navigating through government bureaucracy,
- Attend community events,
- Offer congratulatory and greeting messages,
- Provide government documents, legislation, discussion papers and other web-based forms if you don't have Internet access.

Our doors are open Monday through Friday from 10am until 4:30pm so please drop by and speak with Laura or Linda to determine how we can help.



MEETING WITH THE METRO VANCOUVER CROSS CULTURAL SENIORS NETWORK SOCIETY



web: [www.selinarobinson.ca](http://www.selinarobinson.ca)  
 Twitter: @selinarobinson  
 facebook: [www.facebook.com/selina.d.robinson.7](http://www.facebook.com/selina.d.robinson.7)  
 Youtube: [coquitlam maillardville](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)