

Shane Simpson, M.L.A.
Vancouver-Hastings
Room 201, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4
P: (250) 387 3655
F: (250) 387 4680

Community Office
2365 Hastings Street E
Vancouver, BC V5L 1V6
P: (604) 775-2277
E: shane.simpson.mla@leg.bc.ca



Shane Simpson, M.L.A.
(Vancouver-Hastings)

July 17, 2013

Honourable Speaker and Members of the
Legislative Assembly Management Committee
Room 207 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Honourable Speaker and LAMC Members,

The New Democrat Official Opposition Caucus believes it is important to be accountable about how we use public funds within the B.C. Legislature and across government. MLAs should be as open and transparent as possible about expenses.

In this spirit, we want to move forward on more timely and detailed public disclosure of members' travel expenses. To facilitate this, we will begin posting travel claim forms on our caucus website in August.

We realize that the Legislative Assembly is not yet in a position to support more detailed disclosure of MLA travel expenses, but we are hopeful that this will be the case in the near future and we look forward to being part of that initiative.

As discussions progress within LAMC, we would like to see solutions that would allow the posting of receipts in a manner that protects members' personal privacy and security. We note that when B.C. cabinet ministers' detailed travel receipts are released in response to FOI requests, hotel information and credit card expiry dates and numbers are redacted. While limited caucus resources do not allow for staff resources to be dedicated to redacting this type of information from receipts, we would look to the Legislative Assembly and LAMC to assist with this level of disclosure in the future.

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We are also very supportive of the LAMC initiative to begin disclosure of constituency office expenses and to expand disclosure of cabinet members' expenses.

We look forward to continuing to improve public disclosure of expenses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane Simpson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shane Simpson
Official Opposition Caucus Chair