



Reference: 244271

November 29, 2018

VIA EMAIL: jsham@csrd.bc.ca

Chair Rhona Martin
Columbia-Shuswap Regional District
PO Box 978
Salmon Arm, British Columbia
V1E 4P1

Dear Chair Martin:

Thank you for your letter of October 2, 2018, to Minister Doug Donaldson, regarding the Columbia-Shuswap Regional District's formal request to the province to initiate and fund a recreational land use planning pilot project. I have been asked to respond.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development welcomes the regional district's interest in the modernized land use planning initiative. The meeting with your directors during the 2018 UBCM Convention also provided our minister with a good understanding of the challenges that your agency encounters.

This initial year of implementing a modernized land use planning approach is focussed on program development and design. The ministry will be engaging with First Nations and others, including community organizations and industry, to identify and scope high priority projects across the province. Priority projects will then be ranked to determine those expected to commence in 2019/20. Selection of the initial areas of focus will be influenced by the interest and issues brought forward by organizations such as yours, as well as by funding availability and capacity to deliver within the respective regions. We do expect the current demand for land use planning projects to exceed our initial capacity and therefore some projects will require prioritization and may be postponed to future years.

In the near future, the ministry will be rolling out a renewed website for modernized land use planning information. As the program is designed, we will ensure relevant information is provided to communities and regional districts through the website, including specific information on how modernized land use planning is being undertaken in British Columbia. I encourage you to contact the Kootenay Boundary Natural Resource Region for updates and opportunities.

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Chair Rhona Martin

Thank you for sharing your regional district's concerns and expressing interest in the new planning process. The ministry looks forward to building a coordinated strategy to support planning across southern British Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Wiggill', written in a cursive style.

Garth Wiggill
Regional Executive Director

pc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development
Paul Rasmussen, Assistant Deputy Minister, South Area
Gerry MacDougall, Regional Executive Director, Thompson-Okanagan Natural
Resource Region
Lyle Saigeon, Director, Strategic Initiatives, Kootenay-Boundary Natural
Resource Region