



April 9, 2019

Ref: 244801

Rhona Martin, Chair
Columbia Shuswap Regional District
555 Harbourfront Dr NE
PO Box 978
Salmon Arm BC V1E 4P1

Dear Chair Martin:

Thank you for your letter of February 27, 2019, requesting funding for a study to examine the potential creation of a new municipality that would include the communities of Sorrento and Blind Bay.

I am pleased that the recently completed Boundary Analysis Study provided useful information that helped the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) Board come to this unanimous decision. It is encouraging to hear that a boundary analysis study was a useful first step towards a possible incorporation study and helped narrow the scope of the request. I expect that Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff will consider encouraging other regions exploring governance options to make similar use of boundary analysis studies. I also appreciate the Board providing direction as to their preferred alternative (splitting of the electoral area) if incorporation is not the path chosen following a study, as the outcome of a study process is not always certain.

Undertaking an incorporation study is a major endeavor and requires a significant commitment of local and provincial staff time and resources. Given the information presented in the Boundary Analysis Study and the steps the CSRD has already taken to set the groundwork for an incorporation study, the Province of British Columbia is supportive, in principle, of assisting in the next steps. These next steps will need to include a better understanding of the timelines and details of a proposed study (i.e., work towards a terms of reference for an incorporation study). Therefore, I will ask Ministry staff to follow up with CSRD staff to outline the further information that is required. After a terms of reference has been developed, the Province can consider a request for staff time and financial resources to support an incorporation study.

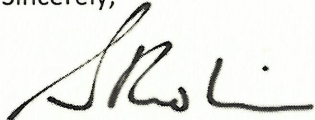
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I look forward to providing a response about funding once Ministry staff have had an opportunity to discuss details with CSRD staff and are able to provide me with full information about the proposed study.

Thank you again for writing, and congratulations on the work done to date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Robinson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Selina Robinson
Minister

pc: Paul Demenok, Director, Electoral Area C
Columbia Shuswap Regional District

Lynda Shykora, Deputy Manager
Columbia Shuswap Regional District