



August 7, 2019

Ref: 248611

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

Dear Chair Martin:

I am pleased to provide a response to your letter dated February 27, 2019, which requested funding for an incorporation study respecting the communities of Sorrento and Blind Bay in Electoral Area 'C'. The ministry has received and reviewed the draft terms of reference for the incorporation study, which outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Study Committee, Regional District, and the Province of British Columbia.

I am satisfied with the key milestones, objectives, and scope of work that is outlined, and appreciate that the Columbia Shuswap Regional District Board provided direction as to their preferred alternative (division of the Electoral Area) if incorporation does not proceed.

As such, I am happy to advise that I have approved a restructure planning grant, in the amount of \$100,000 (net of GST), over a two-year period for the Incorporation Study, as follows:

Sorrento-Blind Bay Incorporation Study	2019/20	\$60,000
Commitment # 51RS2001	2020/21	\$40,000

The purpose of the grant is to fund a detailed overview of the incorporation option, including an estimate of financial impacts and a full community discussion. The intention is that this work will determine if there is sufficient community interest in proceeding to a vote on municipal incorporation.

Restructure planning grants represent part of the ministry's commitment to assist communities in studying the possible restructuring of local government.

Once the terms of reference are finalized, your administration will receive a letter and cost share agreement specifying the terms and conditions of the grant, as well as timelines for deliverables and payments. The agreement should be signed by the Chief Administrative Officer and returned to the ministry to indicate acceptance of the terms and conditions before funds are committed and payments can be made.

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Your contact for the project is Kailey Laidlaw, Senior Planning Analyst. Ms. Laidlaw can be reached by phone at 236 478-1771, or by email at: kailey.laidlaw@gov.bc.ca.

The Province of British Columbia is pleased to assist with this project, as it will give residents of the Sorrento-Blind Bay area the opportunity to review their existing local governance and service provision, as well as options for change.

Sincerely,

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

Selina Robinson
Minister

pc: Paul Demenok, Director, Electoral Area 'C', Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Lynda Shykora, Deputy Manager, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Kailey Laidlaw, Senior Planning Analyst, Governance and Structure Branch