



Reference: 43390

October 24, 2024

**VIA EMAIL: [jsimpson@csrd.bc.ca](mailto:jsimpson@csrd.bc.ca); [nmelnychuk@csrd.bc.ca](mailto:nmelnychuk@csrd.bc.ca)**

Jay Simpson, Director  
Natalya Melnychuk, Director  
Regional District of Columbia Shuswap  
PO Box 987, 555 Harbourfront Drive NE  
Salmon Arm, British Columbia  
V1E 4P1

Dear Jay Simpson and Natalya Melnychuk:

On behalf of Minister Cullen, thank you for taking the time to meet with us and staff from the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, at this year's Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention in Vancouver on September 17, 2024, to discuss drought, water infrastructure, and permitting.

We heard your concerns about water scarcity and your desire to improve system upgrades to related infrastructure. A proactive approach is commendable. As you note, coordination with First Nations is an important consideration. For assistance with First Nations engagement, WLRS recommends reaching out to colleagues at the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

We also discussed riparian area rebuilding and permitting, and we are pleased to note that you have been in discussion with Assistant Deputy Minister James Mack on this issue.

Again, thank you for your time. I am grateful we had the opportunity to meet about topics of mutual importance to provincial and local government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Halls".

Lori Halls  
Deputy Minister

pc: Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship  
James Mack, Assistant Deputy Minister, Water, Fisheries and Coast Division  
Kevin Flynn, Board Chair, Regional District of Columbia Shuswap