

**Briefing Note**  
**2016 UBCM Convention**

**Local Government:** Columbia Shuswap Regional District

**Ministry:** Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

**Meeting ID:** 132

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<b>Topic 1:</b>	<b>Remote Community Electrification Program – Allow Seymour Arm Electrification Project to Proceed</b>
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**Background:**

The CSRD obtained public assent through a referendum that took place on September 28, 2013 to borrow the funds necessary to pay for the community's share. 69% approval by electorate in 2013. BC Hydro, Remote Communities Electrification (RCE) program, was to bring service to the community at its cost while the community would be responsible for the costs associated with the internal distribution system.

As noted above, the residents and property owners within the Seymour Arm area voted in a referendum in 2013, in support for the funding the internal distribution system on the proposed electrification project. The loan authorization for the CSRD to borrow the community's portion of funds for this project expires in October, 2018.

The benefits of a grid connection for the Seymour Arm community extend well beyond the simple conveniences that residents and businesses alike would achieve by accessing reliable electricity services from BC Hydro. Instead, the benefits of electrification will have positive impacts for a broad range of government policy objectives, such as: public health, public safety, and economic development.

In considering these broad objectives, the Seymour Arm Community Association (SACA) elaborated on what they envision as being the most noteworthy benefits for the community if it were ultimately successful in obtaining a grid connection. The following is an itemized list of benefits:

Safe Drinking Water

- The existing gravity-fed system is at its limits.
- Reliable and affordable electricity is needed for a new water system to properly service the current users, as well as to realize opportunities for expansion.

Fire Suppression and Public Safety

- Without electricity, the community is at risk due to inadequate fire suppression capabilities, including interface fires;
- The community has no Fire hall and only one antiquated fire truck.
- Fire hydrants would be feasible with a new water system.

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#### Wastewater Treatment & Disposal

- The community requires electricity to provide for enhanced sewage treatment and disposal - particularly on waterfront properties.
- Electricity would be a prerequisite for a community sewer system which will likely be required at some point in the future.

#### Commercial Development

- Commercial development is severely constrained without access to reliable and affordable electricity;
- Electricity will help promote commercial and business development

#### Recreational Economy

- Electricity will enhance the recreational economy in Seymour Arm
- The recreational economy supports not only Seymour Arm but also the entire North Shuswap area;
- Seymour Arm is a resort community. There are approximately 80 full time residents, but that figure grows considerably during the summer months. Safe and reliable electricity will allow Seymour Arm to become a more sustainable, year round community, which in turn will have a positive impact on the Shuswap region as a whole

#### **Request:**

That funding be reinstated to BC Hydro for Remote Community Electrification Project/Reinstatement of funds - for Seymour Arm Electrification Project.

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