



COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

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June 19, 2025

Sent by email: tmandewo@coquitlam.ca

Trish Mandewo, President
Union of British Columbia Municipalities
10551 Shellbridge Way
Richmond, BC V6X 2W8

Dear Ms. Mandewo:

Re: CSRD Board Supports Bill 15, Urges Stronger Local and First Nations Consultation

The Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) Board of Directors wishes to express support for the intent of Bill 15, which aims to expedite critical projects that will benefit communities across BC. While the Board recognizes the need to streamline processes to address pressing challenges, we want to emphasize the importance of meaningful consultation with local governments and First Nations throughout the implementation of Bill 15.

Local governments have a unique position in their deep understanding of their communities' distinct needs which allows them to tailor policies and services effectively. It is crucial that Bill 15 respect this local expertise and the established processes designed to best address the specific needs of the region.

Although Bill 15 mandates that all designated projects are required to uphold the government's commitment to the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, the Board wants to stress that this is not only a vital part of the reconciliation process, but also a constitutional requirement. Communication and consultation with First Nations communities impacted by the projects is key.

Early and ongoing engagement with local governments and First Nations communities will ensure that expedited projects are implemented efficiently, effectively, and respectfully while adhering to local standards, values, and rights. A collaborative approach will help prevent unintended consequences and will result in improved outcomes for all British Columbians.

The CSRD Board respectfully requests that UBCM continue to advocate for robust consultation processes. Striking the right balance between expediting processes and maintaining the integrity of consultation is challenging, yet it is essential the quality of local government procedures and engagement with First Nations remain intact.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that the goals of Bill 15 are achieved in a way that respectfully reflects the interests of all communities.

Respectfully submitted,

COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

Per:

Natalya Melnychuk
Board Chair

ELECTORAL AREAS

A GOLDEN-COLUMBIA
B REVELSTOKE-COLUMBIA

C EAGLE BAY-WHITE LAKE-TAPPEN
D FALKLAND-SALMON VALLEY

E SICAMOUS-MALAKWA
F NORTH SHUSWAP-SEYMOUR ARM
G BLIND BAY-SORRENTO-NOTCH HILL

MUNICIPALITIES

GOLDEN
REVELSTOKE
SALMON ARM
SICAMOUS