



# COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

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December 5, 2017

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Transmitted via email to: [EMPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EMPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

The Honourable Michelle Mungall  
Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources  
PO Box 9056, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Mungall:

RE: Follow up to CSR D Delegation Meeting September 28, 2017 at UBCM Conference:  
Request for Reinstatement of BC Hydro Community Electrification Program,  
Seymour Arm, Electoral Area F (North Shuswap) – CSR D

Thank you for taking the time to meet with our CSR D Delegation on September 28, 2017 at the UBCM Conference. We were pleased with the positive reception and with your interest in understanding the issues associated with our request to have the BC Hydro Community Electrification Program reinstated in order to achieve much needed power service in the Seymour Arm area of Electoral Area F. This matter continues to be a topic of discussion by the Area F Director, Seymour Arm area residents, and the CSR D Board.

At its regular meeting held on December 1, 2017, the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSR D) Board adopted the following resolution:

*“THAT: the Board authorize a letter to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, with copies to BC Hydro officials as well as to MLA Kylo, MP Arnold, and the Seymour Arm Community Association, in follow-up to the CSR D Delegation on September 28, 2017 at UBCM, to reiterate the significant need and the economic benefits to the community to receive the service of hydroelectric power, and to emphasize and again request that the BC Hydro Community Electrification Program be reinstated, specifically that the power service project be reinstated to serve the residents and property owners in the Seymour Arm area of Electoral Area F, Columbia Shuswap Regional District.”*

The purpose of this letter is to relay the resolution that was supported by the Board and to again communicate the message that the loan authorization for the CSR D to borrow the community’s portion of funds for this project expires in October 2018. With latter 2018 drawing closer, this issue is becoming increasingly more urgent and we respectfully request that the Province give serious consideration to reinstating the BC Hydro Community Electrification Program, more particularly to restore the Program for the Seymour Arm electrification project to ensure that power service becomes a reality in Seymour Arm. The benefits of a grid connection for the Seymour Arm community extend well beyond the simple conveniences that residents and businesses alike would gain by accessing reliable electricity services from BC Hydro. The benefits of electrification will have significant and positive impacts to public health, public safety and to economic development.

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#### ELECTORAL AREAS

A GOLDEN-COLUMBIA  
B REVELSTOKE-COLUMBIA

C SOUTH SHUSWAP  
D FALKLAND-SALMON VALLEY

E SICAMOUS-MALAKWA  
F NORTH SHUSWAP-SEYMOUR ARM

#### MUNICIPALITIES

GOLDEN  
REVELSTOKE

SALMON ARM  
SICAMOUS

*Letter to Minister Mungall*  
*Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources*  
*December 5, 2017*

Page 2

This letter includes a Briefing Note which describes in more detail the benefits that would be derived from the establishment of hydro-electric service in Seymour Arm.

It is our hope that the Minister's office will favourably consider this letter and of do whatever is needed for BC Hydro to reinstate its work on the infrastructure planning and installation for the Seymour Arm electrification service project.

Yours truly,

**COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT**

Per:



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Rhona Martin  
Chair

cc L. Morgan, Director, Electoral Area F, CSRD  
M. Arnold, MP  
G. Kylo, MLA  
BC Hydro, Attention: D. Sharman, Community Relations Regional Manager  
Seymour Arm Community Association, Attention: President

Enclosure: Briefing Note

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

**Local Government:** Columbia Shuswap Regional District

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

**Meeting ID:** 132

**\*\*Please send the completed briefing note to [UBCM.Meetings@gov.bc.ca](mailto:UBCM.Meetings@gov.bc.ca) \*\***

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**Topic 1:** **Remote Community Electrification Program – Allow Seymour Arm Electrification Project to Proceed**

**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.

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

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.