



February 7, 2018

Ref.: 103227

Ms. Rhona Martin
Chair
Columbia Shuswap Regional District Board

Email: LShykora@csrd.bc.ca

cc: Mark.Poweska@bchydro.com

Dear Ms. Martin:

Thank you for taking the time to write on December 5, 2017 regarding your request that the BC Hydro Community Electrification Program be reinstated in Seymour Arm, and for meeting with me on this issue at the UBCM meetings last September.

I appreciate the interest in electrifying the area and understand that it is cost-prohibitive for the community to establish electricity distribution service without funding support.

My understanding is that BC Hydro's decision to suspend the Remote Community Electrification (RCE) Program was made in consultation with the Ministry and other parties in 2013 due to financial pressures and competing funding priorities, which persist today. To this end, our Government recently announced that there will be a comprehensive review of BC Hydro's activities, programs and structure in 2018 to keep electricity rates low.

While I sympathize with residents who are disappointed that the electrification is not moving ahead, I support this decision.

Once again, thank you for writing. I appreciate you following up with me on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Michelle Mungall
Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

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

Office of the Minister

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