



FEB 19 2018

Ref: 232880

Rhona Martin, Chair
Columbia Shuswap Regional District
PO Box 978
555 Harbourfront Dr NE
Salmon Arm BC V1E 4P1

Dear Chair Martin: *Rhona*

Thank you for your letter regarding the Columbia Shuswap Regional District's (CSRD) request for a \$20,000 restructure planning grant to support a community issues assessment in Electoral Area F. I apologize for the delay in responding.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is aware of the desire of some residents located in Scotch Creek to pursue incorporation as a means of improving local governance and service delivery concerns. As you may know, the Ministry has previously expressed to the CSRD that the conditions do not exist in the North Shuswap area to support a viable municipality at this time.

The North Shuswap area is comprised of a number of small and relatively isolated rural communities stretched along the north side of Shuswap Lake. These communities, including Scotch Creek, would not have sufficient numbers of permanent residents nor the diversity in tax base required to be considered for municipal incorporation. As well, I recognize that the vision of North Shuswap residents, as expressed in the Official Community Plan, is to remain a predominantly rural area with value placed on the natural environment and sustainable, well-considered development.

Given these factors, it would not be appropriate for me to recommend pursuing an incorporation process at this time.

In light of this assessment, I suggest that the North Shuswap communities and the CSRD shift the conversation from that of municipal incorporation to what can be achieved within the existing governance system. That path entails the creation of a clear understanding of resident and non-resident interests, concerns, and priorities. I am prepared to consider contributing to an Electoral Area F community issues assessment, provided the CSRD Board and community can accept that this work needs to lead to potential solutions within the existing regional district framework, rather than the establishment of a municipal structure in a portion of or all of Electoral Area F.

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If the CSRD is prepared to accept this approach, Ministry staff are available to support the collaborative development of a Terms of Reference and Cost-Share Agreement for the study. For more information, please contact Brad Smith, Senior Planning Analyst, Local Government Division. Mr. Smith can be reached by telephone at: 778 698-3228, or by email at: Brad.Smith@gov.bc.ca.

Thank you again for writing. It was also a pleasure to meet with you at the 2017 Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention and I look forward to learning about the progress and results of this initiative.

Sincerely,

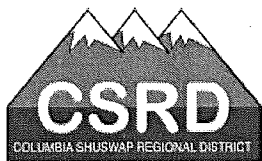


Selina Robinson
Minister

pc:

Larry Morgan, Director
Electoral Area F
Columbia Shuswap Regional District

Brad Smith, Senior Planning Analyst
Local Government Division
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing



COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

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October 20, 2017

File No.: Governance, Area F

Sent via email: MAH.minister@gov.bc.ca

Minister Selina Robinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Robinson:

**RE: Request for Restructure Planning Grant Funding
Electoral Area F, CSR D – Community Issues Assessment**

Firstly, thank you, Minister Robinson for meeting with our CSR D representatives Chief Administrative Officer, Charles Hamilton, CSR D Administration staff, and myself at the recent UBCM Conference. We appreciated the opportunity to meet you, establish a working relationship with the Minister's office and to present an update about the Electoral Area C Governance Study project in relation to the restructure funding request to your Ministry for the assessment project.

Our delegation also had the opportunity to meet with Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff on Wednesday, September 27th, 2017 while at the UBCM Conference. This meeting arose as the result of the following resolution that was recently adopted by the CSR D Board:

"THAT: the Board express its support in principle for a funding request for a Governance Study in Electoral Area F, and further that CSR D Administration be directed to meet with Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff at the 2017 UBCM Conference to broach the topic of potential funding for such a study in Electoral Area F."

In discussing the above resolution topic with Marijke Edmondson, Director, Governance Branch and with Senior Planning Analysts, information was provided to Ministry staff about a recent Governance Review for the Scotch Creek area. The study was undertaken by an independent study group (the North Shuswap Incorporation Feasibility Study Group), in November, 2016. CSR D Director Morgan, Electoral Area F Director, relayed the message to Ministry staff of his interest in pursuing a similar exercise to that of the Area C Governance Study, that would entail the entirety of Electoral Area F. Ministry staff gave a preliminary indication that it would be open to considering a CSR D request for restructure planning grant funding this Provincial fiscal year to undertake a community issues assessment for Area F.

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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

The purpose of this letter is a formal request to the Minister's office for restructure planning grant funding in the amount of up to \$40,000 for this project in Electoral Area F of the CSRD to be cost-shared by a CSRD contribution of up to \$20,000. We believe that a community initiative assessment would be a helpful process in identifying community needs and issues, and an excellent method of involving a public consultation process to obtain perspectives from the Area F community. This is a project that the CSRD would like to initiate later this 2017 year or in the first quarter of 2018 at the latest.

In pursuing this funding application, the Board has directed CSRD Administration to consult with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff in the collaboration of a Terms of Reference that would identify the project's scope and objectives.

Your favourable consideration of the CSRD's request for restructure funding in support of Electoral Area F would be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

Per:



Rhona Martin
CSRD Board Chair

cc: Marijke Edmondson, Director, Governance and Structure Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Brad Smith/Arielle Guetta, Senior Planning Analysts, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Larry Morgan, Director, Electoral Area F