



FEB 19 2018

Ref: 234231

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 funding for a restructure study in Electoral Area C (South Shuswap) to look at an incorporation study area or the alternative of establishing two electoral areas in Electoral Area C. It was a great pleasure to meet with your delegation at the 2017 Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention.

A municipal incorporation study process is a major endeavor. It is not unreasonable for process establishment, preliminary analysis, public examination and engagement to take more than a year, after which comes consideration of whether to proceed to a vote on incorporation. In light of this, there is not enough time to launch such an incorporation study process with the 2018 local general election approaching.

Despite the timing challenge, I was pleased to hear about the foundational work from the governance study and I am supportive in concept. I am prepared to provide the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) with funding to undertake technical work to map potential boundaries for four different restructure options in Electoral Area C as an interim step in the restructure study process.

Should the next CSRD Board renew its request for an incorporation study and/or proposal to divide Electoral Area C into two distinct areas, this work would provide important baseline information, clearly describing those options. Therefore, I am pleased to provide a \$15,000 grant to the CSRD to undertake preparatory work, using technical information such as settlement patterns, local road networks and population density to map the potential boundaries.

As neither the governance study committee recommendation nor the Board resolutions were specific as to the scope of an incorporation option, the range of options appear to include some or all of the Sorrento/Blind Bay area.

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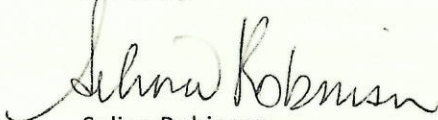
Therefore, it is prudent to develop technical information regarding the following geographies:

- Incorporation of Blind Bay;
- Incorporation of Sorrento;
- Incorporation of Blind Bay and Sorrento together; and
- Splitting Electoral Area C into two.

Considering a boundary configuration for each of these does not presuppose the options that would be supported for future study, but would allow for a more informed discussion in the future of which incorporation option the Board may wish to consider investigating. This should include some of the criteria that I would need in determining whether an area is a candidate for an incorporation study (e.g., population, tax base and service profile).

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing will follow up with the CSRD regarding the terms and conditions of this grant and the transfer of funds. Arielle Guetta, Senior Planning Analyst, Local Government Division, is the lead for this project and can be reached by telephone at: 778 698-3216, or by email at: Arielle.Guetta@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,



Selina Robinson
Minister

pc: Marijke Edmondson, Director
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