

Charles Hamilton
CAO, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
555 Harbourfront Drive NE
Salmon Arm, BC
V1E 3M1

Dear Mr. Hamilton,

We are writing today to discuss the possibility of enhanced services and development in the North Shuswap. During the last 10 years or so our community has seen restaurants shuttered, activity centres closed, many houses up for sale, and a complete lack of new development.

The North Shuswap is a unique resort community. A 60km main street, along with a remote group, another 45km farther along a gravel road. The main 60km contains just under 2500 full time residents, with another 20,000 in vacation properties. The thing about North Shuswap residents is that we're one people. We have a common sense of community, from one end to the other. We are friends, acquaintances and relatives, all along our main street. We don't always speak with the same voice but we share community goals and aspirations. When the health clinic was likely to close we raised \$130,000 in just 7 months with donations from all areas of the community; from local business to bottle collection money from local children to a small grant from the CSRD. Donors were from one end of the community to the other. The various separate settlements, Lee Creek, Scotch Creek, Celista, Anglemont etc. all pull in the same direction.

In discussions with a variety of community members, there are desires for improvement in local services. Certainly, a restaurant or two is in our minds, but more important is sewer and water systems for our primary settlement area. This would allow development of new services and subdivisions, but more importantly, it would hopefully provide future certainty for the quality of our drinking water and lake water quality. Currently our 'Primary Settlement Area' has roughly 300 septic tanks/fields and a number of small multi-dwelling sewage treatment operations that are using direct lake outflow for their treated water. The community is of a mind that this needs to be addressed in the short term.

Over the years many reports have been commissioned to look at the feasibility of constructing water and sewage systems in Scotch Creek. The general consensus has been that the cost has been too high. We aren't sure why the cost for our systems are that much greater than for other communities of our size that do have systems, but certainly it seems there has been little interest from the CSRD to move ahead with developing the systems, working with local businesses to encourage private construction of them, or applying for grants from other levels of government that may facilitate the construction of these much needed services. Without these services our community cannot move ahead and these environmental goals cannot be achieved.

Also identified in discussions with various community people is the idea of more local control over decisions made that directly affect our area. Currently, bylaws and other affecting decisions are voted on by CSRD directors that live, and focus on areas, over 250km away, who have likely never visited our area. There are frustrations with this model, and one goal, is to look at ways to bring about local decision making and accountability.

Our understanding is that a resolution to these issues begins with a local Governance Study. Attached is a preliminary Governance Review of Scotch Creek that shows a positive opportunity to move forward on a formal Governance Review. We would like to meet with you to discuss your backing and your efforts to encourage the Ministry of Community, Sport & Cultural Development to approve a Governance Study for the North Shuswap. We need to get a clear idea of what becoming a municipality would mean, and thereby be able to gauge the level of support for this opportunity in our local population.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Have a Merry Christmas!

CC: Larry Morgan