



FEB 19 2010

Ref: 232880

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

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<input type="checkbox"/> Works	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reg Board Mar/18	File#
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JB/LS FEB 23 2018		
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Dear Chair Martin: *Rhona*

Thank you for your letter regarding the Columbia Shuswap Regional District's (CSRSD) 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 CSRSD 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 CSRSD 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 CSRSD 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.

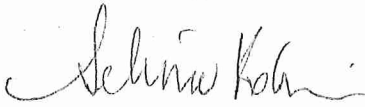
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Chair Martin
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If the CSRD is prepared to accept this approach, Ministry staff are available to support the collaborative development of a Terms of Reference and Cost-Share Agreement for the study. 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