



Making a difference...together

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July 17, 2019

File No. 0400-20
Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Honourable Selina Robinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Room 310 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Via email: MAH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Robinson:

RE: APPLICATION FOR FUNDING A WATER OPTIMIZATION STUDY FOR THE SALT SPRING ISLAND ELECTORAL AREA

Following the 2017 Salt Spring Island incorporation referendum the province encouraged the Capital Regional District (CRD), Islands Trust, and North Salt Spring Waterworks (NSSWD) to work together on areas of shared jurisdiction. For the past year and half both the CRD and NSSWD have been collaborating on shared water interests, concerns, and governance. Several challenges have been emerging over recent years in Salt Spring Island's ability to maintain sustainable water delivery under the current fragmented governance and management. Water delivery, governance, and management activities on Salt Spring Island are carried out by multiple agencies with overlapping jurisdictions, boundaries, and ratepayers. The Island is grappling with water shortages resulting in conflicts between water users and agencies. A moratorium is in place restricting new water connections within NSSWD service boundaries. Provincial policy restricts improvement districts from directly accessing provincial and federal funding for infrastructure projects.

As a result of this joint collaboration, both the CRD and NSSWD have reached an agreement that a study to look at ways improving water management on-island, ensuring an understanding around how integration and decision-making between NSSWD and CRD could be optimized, and what is required for implementation. The information gathered from a study will form the basis for both parties to discuss a process for moving forward with the options should there be agreement. In this regard, the Capital Regional District Board passed the following motion on July 10, 2019:

"That an application be submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for funding in the amount of \$50,000 for a Water Service Optimization study in Salt Spring Island Electoral Area.

We appreciate the Ministry's consideration for this request and look forward to continuing collaboration with NSSWD.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Colin Plant', is positioned above the printed name.

Colin Plant
Chair, Capital Regional District Board

cc: Gary Holman, Director Salt Spring Island Electoral Area
Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD
Michael McAllister, Chair, North Salt Spring Waterworks District
Marjke Edmondson, Director, Governance Structures, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Arielle Guetta, Senior Planning Analyst, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing