



Making a difference...together

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November 9, 2017

File: 1475-20

The Honourable Selina Robinson
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
PO BOX 9056, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Robinson:

Re: Request to Extend Regional Growth Strategy Non-Binding Dispute Resolution Deadline

Thank you for your letter dated November 3, 2017 in regards to the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) non-binding dispute resolution process. The letter specifies that the non-binding dispute resolution process is to conclude by November 30, 2017.

On November 8, 2017 the CRD Board considered your letter and passed the following resolution:

Whereas the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (the Minister), without prior consultation with this Board, has directed that the non-binding mediation process for acceptance of the RGS be concluded by November 30, 2017;

And Whereas the stated reason for this direction is the Minister's "understanding that that process has not proceeded as expected", with no explanation as to the source and nature of the information leading to that conclusion;

And Whereas extensive, detailed work and financial investment undertaken in good faith by all parties to the process will be put in jeopardy and frustrated by the above early arbitrary date;

Be it Resolved: that the Board direct the Chair to respond to the Minister to request a time extension for completion of the non-binding process to a date no later than January 15, 2018 so as to preserve and complete the critical mediation process;

And Further Resolved that, pending response from the Minister, the Board continue the non-binding mediation process as contracted with the mediator in the time frame already approved, with in-person sessions from December 6 to December 8.

The CRD Board also resolved:

That the Board advise the Mediator to allow a presentation and participation of Director Hicks on behalf of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area in the RGS mediation process.

This letter is to request that the time period for completion of the non-binding dispute resolution process be extended from November 30, 2017 to January 15, 2018 and to confirm that the referral period for municipal acceptance required by section 439(8)(a) of the *Local Government Act* would occur subsequent to the extended time period. As proposed, the January 15, 2018 time period for completion would allow mediated dispute resolution sessions to occur as planned in early December 2017 and for the CRD Board to consider a revised RGS document to refer to municipalities for acceptance.

The CRD is committed to undertaking non-binding dispute resolution so as to collaboratively work towards acceptance of the RGS. Staff will continue to work closely with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Local Government Division. Should you have any questions, please contact Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, at rlapham@crd.bc.ca or 250-360-3124.

Thank you for your continued attention to this matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Price". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Steve Price
Chair, CRD Board

cc: CRD Board
Robert Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer, CRD
Tara Faganello, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division

